

PCT

REC'D 2 1 DEC 2000

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION HEPORT

PC1

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference			FOR FURTHER AC	CTION		ation of Transmittal of Internation Examination Report (Form PC)			
C PH/VZ99/12									
International application No. PCT/NL99/00565			International filing date (day/month/year)		Priority date (day/month/year)				
			ļ	10/09/1999 14/09/1998					
		ent Classification (IPC) or nat	tional classification and IP	С					
G06K7	/10								
Applicant	1					<u></u>			
SCANT	ECH	B.V. et al.							
		ational preliminary exami smitted to the applicant a		prepared	by this Inte	rnational Preliminary Examii	ning Authority		
2. This	REPO	ORT consists of a total of	6 sheets, including this	s cover she	eet.				
	This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.								
3. This	report	contains indications relat	ting to the following iten	ns:					
	⊠	Basis of the report							
1		Priority							
n	ı 🛛	Non-establishment of or	oinion with regard to no	velty, inve	ntive step a	and industrial applicability			
l i∨	_	Lack of unity of invention	n						
V	' 🛛	Reasoned statement un citations and explanatio			ovelty, inve	ntive step or industrial applic	cability;		
V		Certain documents cite	d						
VII		Certain defects in the in	ternational application						
VIII		Certain observations on	the international applic	cation					
Date of su	ubmissio	on of the demand		Date of co	mpletion of t	his report			
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		g address of the international ining authority:		Authorized	d officer		SECONES MITENIUM		
))	D-80 Tel.	pean Patent Office 0298 Munich +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 +49 89 2399 - 4465	epmu d	Damp, S	S No. +49 89	2399 7420	TOWN STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE		

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00565

I. B	asis	of t	he r	port
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1.	resp the	his report has been drawn on the basis of (substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in esponse to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to be report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).): rescription, pages:									
	1-18	3	as originally filed								
	Clai	Claims, No.:									
	1-22	2	as received on	04/12/2000	with letter of	01/12/2000					
	Dra	Orawings, sheets:									
	1/5-	5/5	as originally filed								
2.			guage, all the elements m international application v								
	The	hese elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:									
		the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).									
		the language of p	e language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).								
		the language of a 55.2 and/or 55.3).		he purposes of inter	national preliminar	y examination (under Rule					
3.			cleotide and/or amino ad ry examination was carrie								
		contained in the ir	nternational application in	written form.							
		filed together with the international application in computer readable form.									
		☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.									
		☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.									
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclethe international application as filed has been furnished.											
		The statement that listing has been fu	at the information recordedurnished.	d in computer reada	ble form is identica	I to the written sequence					
4.	The	amendments have	e resulted in the cancellat	ion of:							
		the description,	pages:								
		the claims.	Nos.:								

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00565

		the drawings,	sheets:			
5.		This report has been considered to go bey	established a ond the disclo	s if (sor	me s filo	of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been led (Rule 70.2(c)):
		(Any replacement sh report.)	eet containing	g such a	ame	endments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this
6.	Add	itional observations, i	f necessary:			
III.	Nor	n-establishment of o	pinion with re	egard to	o n	ovelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
1.	The obv	questions whether th ious), or to be industri	e claimed inve ially applicable	ention a e have i	appo not	ears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non- been examined in respect of:
		the entire internation	al application.			
	×	claims Nos. 11-17,22	2.			
be	caus	se:				
		the said internationa not require an intern	l application, c ational prelimi	or the sa nary ex	aid am	claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does nination (specify):
	⊠	the description, clain that no meaningful o see separate sheet	pinion could b	s (<i>indica</i> e forme	<i>ate</i> ed (particular elements below) or said claims Nos. 22 are so unclear (specify):
		the claims, or said cl could be formed.	aims Nos. are	e so ina	ade	equately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion
	×	no international sear	ch report has	been e	sta	ablished for the said claims Nos. 11-17.
2.	and	neaningful internationa Vor amino acid seque tructions:	al preliminary nce listing to o	examin comply	atio with	on report cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide h the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative
		the written form has	not been furn	ished o	r do	oes not comply with the standard.
		the computer readal	ole form has n	ot beer	ı fui	rnished or does not comply with the standard.
V.	Rea	asoned statement ui ations and explanati	nder Article 3 ons supporti	5(2) wi ng suc	th r h si	regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
1.	Sta	tement				
	No	velty (N)	Yes: C	laims	1-1	10,18-21

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL99/00565

No: Claims

Inventive step (IS) Yes: Claims 1-10,18-21

No: Claims

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-10,18-21

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted: see separate sheet

EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

Concerning point III

Claim 22 directed to a method is referred back to all the forgoing claims directed to a device without specifying any particular method steps. Thus, present claim 22 is unclear (Article 6) so that no examination can be performed.

Concerning point V

Reference is made to the following documents: 1.

D1: WO 97 28512 A (PSC INC) 7 August 1997 (1997-08-07)

D2: JP 6-28508, 1994

D3: US-A-5 691 528 (GOREN DAVID ET AL) 25 November 1997 (1997-11-25)

The document D2 was not cited in the international search report.

Document D1 is considered to present the closest state of the art. It describes a 2. handheld scanner according to the preamble of claim 1. This handheld scanner can be used in a fixed working mode, where the scanner is placed into a holder which is adapted to the housing of the handheld scanner.

There might be the problem to use the scanner alternately in its handheld and its fixed mode with different fixed scanning positions. According to D1, a plurality of holder or different positions for a single holder should be used.

In the present application, the problem is solved by using a 'cubic' housing for the scanner. The housing allows handheld working mode and a stable fixed working mode. Document D2 shows a scanner which is also placed in a 'cubic-like' case but evidently it is not usable in a handheld mode. D3 describes a scanner usable in a fixed mode and in a handheld mode. An essential part of its housing is a grip for the handheld working mode which is also used as a support in the fixed operation mode. No hint can be found and it seems not to be obvious to use the 'simple' solution of present claim 1, using a 'cubic' housing which allows a comfortable handheld mode as well as a stable fixed mode.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 is considered to fulfill Articles 33(2), 33(3)

PCT.

3. Consequently, claims 2-10 and 18-21, which depend on claim 1, also fulfill Articles 33(2), 33(3) PCT.

Concerning point VII

- In claim 1 the device is characterized in that the housing is placed "without a 1. holder". Because this is such a vague and general definition it can not be seen to specify an characterizing feature. Therefore, it should be omitted (Article 6 PCT, conciseness).
- In claim 1, its is defined that scanning is performed "only" when placed on the 2. bottom side. According to the original filed documents, scanning is also performed through the front wall, when the scanner is used in handheld mode. Therefore, the term "only" is an added subject-matter which is not allowed according to Articles 19(2), 34(2) PCT.

For examination (Paragraph V) claim 1 is assumed to be construed without the term "only".

- The application does not fulfill the following PCT-Rules: 3.
 - Rule 5.1(a)(ii):

mentioning of the relevant background art in the description

by using D1, D2 and D3

- Rule 5.1(a)(iii):

adapting the description to the amendments

- Rule 6.2(b):

use of reference signs in the claims

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EPO - DG 1

04, 12, 2000

CLAIMS



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- Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising:
- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
- a pick-up element for picking up laser light
 scattered by a barcode;
 - a compact housing to be handheld in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, wherein the housing is completely constructed from a bottom side, a
- 15 top side, <u>a standing rear wall</u>, <u>a standing front wall and two standing side walls</u> arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm;
- characterized in that the bottom side of the housing is
 20 substantially flat for placement of the housing without a
 holder and scanning is performed through said standing
 front wall only when placed on said bottom side.
 - 2. Device according to claim 1, comprising:
- position determining means arranged in the
 25 housing for determining the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror;
- control means which are connected to the position determining means and the laser light source and which switch the laser light source on or off depending
 on the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror;
 - wherein dependent on the switching on and off a omnidirectional scan pattern or a line pattern is cast, both

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scan patterns being cast through one and the same window in the housing.

- 3. Device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, comprising a mirror arranged in the housing and foldable 5 between two positions, in the first position of which a substantially flat mirror surface of the mirror reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a substantially concave mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.
 - 4. Device as claimed in claim 3, comprising
 - folding means arranged in the housing which are connected to the foldable mirror and which fold it between the two positions;
- operating means arranged partially inside and
 partially outside the housing which are connected to the folding means.
 - 5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein a part of the operating means protrude from the flat bottom side of the housing.
- 6. Device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the folding means comprise an electric motor and the operating means comprise a switch for switching the electric motor on and/or off.
- 7. Device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, wherein the operating means comprise an operating member protruding partially through a guide opening in the housing, wherein the operating member can be guided into the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the first position and wherein spring means arranged in the housing urge the operating member partially out of the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the second position.
- 8. Device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the operating member is provided with locking means for locking the operating member with the foldable mirror in the first position.
 - 9. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position determining means comprise:

- sensor means which detect laser light reflected from the polygonal mirror;
- rotation speed determining means which determine the rotation speed of the rotatable polygonal
 mirror.
- 10. Device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror comprises a central part and mirror surfaces standing from a first side thereof and is provided on the other side with receiving means which receive a drive shaft for rotating driving of the rotatable polygonal mirror.
 - 11. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are arranged:
- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
 - a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
- a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for
 20 reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
 - a mirror foldable between two positions, in the first position of which a first mirror surface
- 25 reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.
- 12. Device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first mirror surface has a substantially flat surface and 30 the second mirror surface has a substantially concave surface.
 - 13. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are arranged:
- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
 - a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;

- a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
- a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- drive means for driving a rotating support member, wherein the polygonal mirror is placed with the outer ends thereof on the rotating support member.
- 14. Device as claimed in claim 13, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are fixed at least partially 10 to the rotating support member.
 - 15. Device as claimed in claim 13, wherein double-sided tape provided with adhesive means is arranged between the ends of the polygonal mirror and the rotating support member.
- 16. Device as claimed in claim 13, 14, or 15, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are provided with centering pins which engage round or in the rotating support member and which centre the polygonal mirror relative to the drive means.
- 20 17. Device as claimed in at least one of the claims 13-16, wherein a protruding gripping component is fixed to the polygonal mirror.
- 18. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the height-width ratio of the polygonal 25 mirror has a value of about 1 or higher.
 - 19. Device as claimed in claim 18, wherein a laser light source adjusting member is fixed to the laser light source, which positions the laser light source in only the horizontal direction.
- 20. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror is arranged in the vicinity of a first corner of the housing and the fixedly disposed flat mirrors and/or the foldable mirror are arranged in the vicinity of an opposite corner of the housing.
 - 21. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein a resilient holder is arranged around at least a part of the housing.

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22. Method for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, wherein the device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims is applied.



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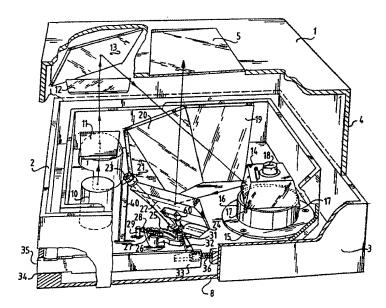
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(54) Title: DEVICE FOR READING A BARCODE



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising: a laser light source (10) for transmitting laser light; a rotatable polygonal mirror (14) for reflecting the transmitted laser light; a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors (13, 19, 20, 21) for reflecting laser light; a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode; a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.

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EE	Estonia	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
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The present invention relates to a device and method for reading in a shop map first tyme is a sticles in two types.

instance articled two types. The present invention relates such as for method for reading in the present invention and assistant as a service of the present in the presen WO 00/16237 Instance articles in a snop. The first type is a so-called types.

The divided into two is dianosed at a fixed location be divided scanner which is dianosed. be divided into two types. The tixed location, the fixed scanner which is disposed at a shon wherein the fixed scanner on a counter of a shon wherein the instance in or on a counter of a snop, wherein the front of the front of a snop, wherein the front of a snop, which is the first of the first fixed scanner which is disposed at a fixed location, wherein the accounter of a shop, wherein the fixed scanner which a counter of a hi, hand along the instance in or on a counter of a hi, hand along the instance in or one accounter of the hand along the fixed scanner which are the counter of the counter Objects for scanning are moved by hand along the front of the scanning are moved by hand along the front of the scanner by an individual. Objects for scanning the scanner by an individual. Objects for small objects. the scanner by an individual. These tixed scanners are which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which an individual the scanner by an individual objects which an individual the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which an individual objects which an individual objects which an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual objects which can be readily the scanner by an individual. used particularly for small objects which can be readily to small objects which in the scanner by an individual. A carried in the scanner which is carried in the picked up and moved over the scanner which is carried in the land a hand scanner which is carried in the land a hand scanner which is carried in the land a hand scanner which is carried in the land time is a hand scanner which is a land time in the land time is a hand scanner which is a land time in the land time is a hand scanner which is a land time in the land time is a land time in plcked up and moved over the scanner by an individual.

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the barcode on the relevant article)
the barcode on the manner hand enough are included the barcode. barcode is read. These hand scanners are used

These hand scanners are used objects which hand and more heavy objects which hand and more hand are authorized in his particularly if nor impossible hand are authorized and more hand are used to be a second to particularly in the case of large or heavy objects which move are awkward if not impossible to pick up by hand and move are awkward if not rhe acanner. Tront of the scanner.

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whithout additions that they cannot hard without additions?

moreover have such in one hand without additions? moreover nave such large dimensions that they can moreover have such in one hand without additional easily be grasped in the control of the control easily be grasped in one hand without to use as hand which makes them difficult to use as hand which makes them difficult to use as hand An object of the present invention is to invention

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- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
- a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.

By providing the housing with a flat underside it can be placed in simple manner during use as a fixed scanner at a random position on a counter by an operator without a holder or the like being required. The housing 20 moreover has such small dimensions in the longitudinal direction that it can be grasped easily with one hand to simplify use of the scanner as hand scanner.

When used as fixed scanner the device operates in the manner of a so-called omnidirectional scanner,

i.e. scan lines are written at various angles in order to make the chance of recognition of a barcode moved along the scanner as large as possible at all angles. During use as hand scanner however, the device often operates preferably in a unidirectional scanning mode, i.e. scan

lines are written running substantially in one direction for scanning the barcode in one direction. This increases the selectivity in recognition of barcodes, since substantially only one barcode running parallel to the scanning direction is recognized, while unintentional

recognition of other barcodes is avoided. This increased selectivity is particularly important in the case where

barcodes placed at a short mutual distance must be

recognized. In some cases the omnidirectional scanning

mode is however still preferred during the use as hand For an omnidirectional scanning mode as many For an omnial rectional scanning mode as many angles written at as many angles written at as many and as many angles are possible must be written at a fire mirrore fixed in f scan lines as possible must be written at as many angles that all fixedly disposed flat mirrors that all fixedly disposed from the laser light noming from the second to reflect the laser light naming from the second from the laser light naming from the second from the laser light naming from the second from the laser light naming angles as possible; as po as possible; reflect the unidirections of eneming are used to recover the unidirections of the unidirections of the unidirections of the unique the uniq are used to reflect in the unidirectional scanning mode are polygonal mirror. In the reflected hy one of the polygonal mirror. polygonal mirror. In the unidirectional scanning mode

polygonal mirror only to be reflected by one anherantially in

laser an that scan lines are written substantially

interpretational scanning mode

the flat

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flat

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necessary for switching the laser light source on and off.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention the device also comprises a mirror arranged in the housing 5 and foldable between two positions, in the first position of which a first mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon. The first mirror surface preferably has a 10 substantially flat surface and the second mirror surface preferably has a surface which is substantially concave in one direction. This has the advantage that in an omnidirectional scanning mode a mirror surface suitable for this purpose, preferably a flat surface, reflects the 15 laser light, while in the unidirectional scanning mode another surface suitable for this scanning mode reflects the laser light, i.e. in this case a concave surface. Due to the concave surface in the second position of the foldable mirror the beams of laser light coming from the 20 different surfaces of the rotatable polygonal mirror are converged to form a beam with an average intensity which is a maximum of four times greater. A sharp scan line of high intensity hereby results, which improves the operation of the device as hand scanner. An additional 25 advantage is that such a scan line can be more easily discerned visually by an individual operating the scanner.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention the device also comprises:

- folding means arranged in the housing which are connected to the foldable mirror and fold it between the two positions;
- operating means arranged partially inside and partially outside the housing which are connected to the 35 folding means. The folding means and operating means provide in this preferred embodiment a simple switching between the first and second position of the foldable mirror and therefore between the omnidirectional and

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unidirectional scanning mode of the scanner. This has the further advantage that an operator can operate the operating means for switch-over between the omnidirectional and unidirectional scanning mode in 5 simple manner, for instance by pressing with a finger on the operating means protruding outside the housing.

The operating means are preferably arranged on the underside of the housing so as to ensure that when the housing is set down with the underside thereof the 10 omnidirectional scanning mode is chosen or when the housing is picked up the unidirectional scanning mode is chosen.

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention the folding means comprise an electric motor and the operating means a switch for switching the electric motor on and off.

According to a further preferred embodiment the operating means comprise an operating member protruding partially through a guide opening into the housing, 20 wherein the operating member can be guided into the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the first position and wherein the operating member can be guided partially out of the housing by spring means arranged in the housing, whereby the folding 25 means carry the foldable mirror into the second position. This has the advantage that when the housing is set down and picked up the foldable mirror is folded between the first and second position, respectively corresponding with the omnidirectional scanning mode and the 30 unidirectional scanning mode, in wholly mechanical manner and without an operator him/herself having to take any action.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention the operating member is provided with 35 locking means for locking the operating member with the foldable mirror in the first position. This has the advantage that when the housing is picked up and the scanner therefore serves as hand scanner, the operating

member can nevertheless be fixed in a position such that the scanner operates in the omnidirectional scanning mode. In such a case an operator does not have to keep his finger pressed continuously on the operating member.

According to a further embodiment of the invention the rotatable polygonal mirror comprises a central part and mirror surfaces standing from a first side thereof and the mirror is provided on the other side with receiving means which receive a drive shaft for rotating driving of the rotatable polygonal mirror. This embodiment obviates the drawback which occurs during manufacture of known polygonal mirrors, wherein due to the presence of a relatively large number of small parts for receiving the drive shaft there occurs too little discharge of heat during the manufacturing process and the mirror surfaces of the polygonal mirror are therefore deformed.

According to another aspect of the invention a device is provided for scanning and/or recognizing one or 20 more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are arranged:

- a laser light source for transmitting laser
 light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting
 25 the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- outer ends thereof on the rotating support member.

By placing the polygonal mirror with its ends on a rotating support member a drive shaft as used in the 35 known scanning devices can be dispensed with, which not only simplifies the construction of the polygonal mirror but also provides a weight advantage, whereby a lighter drive motor can be used. Higher rotation speeds are

moreover possible with such a polygonal mirror, which increases the number of scan lines written per time unit and therefore the chance of recognition of a barcode. In addition, such a lighter motor uses less energy. Also 5 obviated is the drawback which occurs during manufacture of the known polygonal mirrors, wherein due to the presence of a relatively large number of small parts for receiving the drive shaft there occurs too little discharge of heat during the manufacturing process and 10 the mirror surfaces of the polygonal mirror are therefore deformed to some extent. Owing to the simplified construction of the polygonal mirror heat can be discharged more effectively during the manufacture thereof, whereby the mirror surfaces display a greater 15 flatness relative to the mirror surfaces of the known polygonal mirrors.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention the ends of the polygonal mirror are fixed at least partially to the rotating support member, 20 wherein double-sided tape provided with adhesive means is preferably arranged between the ends of the polygonal mirror and the rotating support member. The polygonal mirror can hereby be fixed in simple manner to the rotating support member.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention the ends of the polygonal mirror are provided with centering pins which engage round or in the rotating support member and which centre the polygonal mirror relative to drive means. By centering the polygonal 30 mirror with said centering pins a separate balancing step is no longer required during assembly of the scanner.

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According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention a protruding gripping component is fixed to the polygonal mirror, so that the mirror can be arranged 35 on the support member and removed from the support member in simple manner and without contacting the mirror surfaces thereof, which would reduce the quality thereof.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention the height-width ratio of the polygonal mirror has a value of about 1 or higher. Known polygonal mirrors have a width which is greater than their height.

5 However, by giving the mirror surfaces a height which is greater than their width the air resistance of the polygonal mirror can be reduced during rotation and the adjustment in height direction of the laser light source is less critical so that the positioning thereof need only be adjusted in width direction.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention a laser light source adjusting member is fixed to the laser light source, which positions the laser light source in only the width direction.

According to a further preferred embodiment of the invention the rotatable polygonal mirror is arranged in the vicinity of a first corner of the housing and the fixedly disposed flat mirrors and/or the foldable mirror are arranged in the vicinity of an opposite corner of the housing. Such an asymmetrical arrangement of the polygonal mirror on the one side and the fixed mirrors and/or the foldable mirror on the other results in a space-saving inside the housing of the device such that it can take an even narrower form.

- Further details, advantages and features of the present invention will be elucidated in the following description and with reference to the annexed figures, in which:
- figure 1 shows a view of a preferred
 embodiment of the scanner according to the present invention;
 - figure 2 shows a view of a preferred embodiment of the scanner of figure 1, which is provided with a protective holder;
- of a preferred embodiment of the scanner with the mirror folded open;

- figure 4 shows in schematic manner a scanner with the associated pattern of scan lines;

- figure 5 is a partly cut-away perspective
 view of a preferred embodiment of the scanner with folded
 mirror;
 - figure 6 is a schematic view of a preferred embodiment of a scanner with the mirror folded shut; and
- figure 7 shows a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the rotatable polygonal mirror;
 and
 - figure 8 shows a cross-section of the polygon of figures 3, 4 and 5.

The scanner of figures 1-6 comprises a housing provided with a flat bottom 2, a standing front wall 1, a standing rear wall 8, two standing side walls 3 and a top wall 4. Arranged in front wall 1 is a window 5 through which laser light exits and enters. In figure 1 the scanner is set down with its flat bottom 2 on a counter or table T of a shop and in this position the scanner 20 functions as so-called fixed scanner, wherein the barcodes of the articles for recognizing are moved past window 5 by an operator (not shown). A beam of laser light herein exits through window 5. The laser light scattered by a barcode on an article subsequently reenters the scanner via window 5 and is received there by a receiver 49 via a collector lens 50 and then processed, wherein the read barcode is decoded.

The scanner according to figure 1 is shown in figure 2, wherein however it is provided on the outside 30 of the housing 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 with a protective holder 6, preferably manufactured from a resilient material such as for instance an elastic plastic, rubber or the like. In addition to having a protective function, this holder also has the function of facilitating gripping of the 35 holder with a hand of an operator. Provided for this purpose in holder 6 are a number of grooves 7 in which the fingers of the hand can rest.

Figure 3 shows a cut-away view of the scanner.

A laser light source 10 transmits a beam of laser light or laser beam (indicated with an arrow) which subsequently falls via an adjustable mirror 11 and a 5 mirror 13 onto a rotating polygonal mirror or polygon 14. Polygon 14 is constructed in this embodiment from four specular surfaces which are each directed at a different angle relative to the rotation axis. Polygons with fewer or more surfaces are however also possible. Laser light 10 beams which are incident upon the mirror surfaces of polygon 14 are therefore reflected in different ways depending on the angle between the relevant mirror surface and the vertical.

Polygon 14 is arranged on a rotating disc 16 15 which is rotated by a drive motor 15. This motor causes polygon 14 to rotate at a determined rotation speed, wherein the rotation speed lies in the range of 10 to 10,000 revolutions per minute, such as for instance 3,000 revolutions per minute. The laser light reflected from a 20 random mirror surface of polygon 14 is directed onto one of the mirrors 19-22, depending on the positioning of the polygon. Mirrors 19, 20 and 21 are flat mirrors and arranged fixedly in the housing of the scanner. In the position of figure 3 mirror 22 is likewise directed with 25 a flat side toward the polygon and will therefore function similarly to any of the mirrors 19, 20 or 21. After reflection against a mirror (19-22) the light beam exits from the transparent window 5 of the scanner in the direction of a possible article for scanning.

30 Figure 4 shows the scan pattern on the window 5 and at three different distances from window 5. When polygon 14 rotates in clockwise direction, the laser light from a first mirror surface of the polygon will first impinge on the flat side of mirror 22 whereby a scan line 51 is written. The laser beam then impinges on mirror 21 whereby line 52 is written. As the polygon is further rotated, scan lines 53 and 54 are then written via mirrors 20 and 19. The laser light beam coming from

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the laser beam source is subsequently reflected by a following mirror surface of polygon 14, which mirror surface in this case lies at a greater angle relative to the vertical. Scan lines 61, 62, 63 and 64 are hereby 5 written by respective mirrors 22, 21, 20 and 19 and scan lines 71-74 and 81-84 are written in the case of the subsequent mirror surfaces of the polygon. In the shown embodiment with four mirrors 19-22 and four mirror surfaces of polygon 14 a total of 4 x 4 = 16 scan lines are therefore written. The pattern of scan lines is such that the scanner will recognize a passing barcode in as many directions as possible (omnidirectional scan line pattern).

During use as hand scanner, such an 15 omnidirectional scanning mode is however not desirable. The scanner is in this case carried manually by the operator to the barcode on the object for scanning and aligned relative thereto. When for instance the scanner is aligned such that a barcode for recognizing is 20 positioned in front of window 5 in the width direction of the scanner, only scan lines 52, 62, 72 and 82 are required for recognition of the barcode. The other scan lines are in this case superfluous and can even result in erroneous decoding of the barcodes, particularly in the 25 case that barcodes are situated at a short mutual distance. The barcodes are situated at a short mutual distance when barcodes are for instance arranged on the spines of a stack of books. When the scanner is moved in the direction of the stack of books, it is in some cases 30 not possible for the operator to find out which of the books has been scanned due to the spatial distribution of the scan lines.

For a unidirectional scanning mode, only the scan lines 52, 62, 72 and 82 have to be written in this 35 embodiment which occur as a result of reflection against a mirror surface at the location of mirror 21. When the polygon is directed such that the laser beam would fall onto the other mirrors 19, 20 or 22, no scan line should

be written and the laser light source must therefore be switched off. For this purpose a sensor 60 is arranged in an opening in mirror 22 which detects the passage of a laser beam and the point in time at which this occurs. It is not only possible hereby to determine the rotation speed of the polygon but, in co-action with sensor 60, it is also possible to determine the exact position of polygon 14 at all times. Depending on the position of polygon 14, control electronics (not shown) switch laser 10 light source 10 on or off.

In order to further limit the spatial distribution of the remaining scan lines 52, 62, 72 and 82 the mirror 22 is embodied for folding between two positions. Figure 3 shows the folded-open position in which the mirror surface directed towards polygon 14 is substantially flat. Figure 5 shows the folded-over position wherein mirror 22 is rotated around a shaft 23 which is fixed in an upright 40 and to the bottom 8 of the scanner. As alternative to upright 40, an injection moulded component can be provided in corresponding manner on rear wall 8. The concave second surface 41 on the rear of foldable mirror 22 is in this situation directed toward polygon 14 instead of the flat first mirror surface of mirror 21.

Figure 6 shows how the laser beams run when they impinge upon the concave surface of mirror 22. This shows that a laser beam 52, 62, 72 and 82 is transmitted four times in succession, corresponding with the number of mirror surfaces of polygon 14, wherein laser beams 52, 62, 72 and 82 are focussed such that at some distance above the window of scanner 4 they form scan lines substantially falling one over another. Instead of four parallel lines written at a distance from each other, four parallel lines are in this case written falling one over another, whereby taken on average through time a line having a four times greater intensity is written. A line is therefore written four times more often, which increases the chance of striking and recognizing a

barcode. An additional advantage is that such a scan line can be more easily discerned visually by an individual operating the scanner.

Folding of mirror 22 takes place in the 5 following manner. In the position of the scanner shown in figure 1, i.e. generally the omnidirectional position, the scanner is placed with the bottom 2 of the housing on the checkout T. The outer end 35 of an operating component 33, which is guidable in a guide opening 34 in 10 the bottom 2 of the housing, is hereby pressed in so far counter to the pressure of a pressure spring 36 fixed to operating component 33 and a side wall 3 of the housing that the outer end 35 is situated in one line with the underside of bottom 2. Mounted on operating component 33 15 is an arm 32 which has a hook shape 37 on its opposite end. The hook shape 37 engages onto a pin 31 of a coupling piece 26, which coupling piece 26 is rotatable around a shaft 27 arranged on the rear side 8 of the housing. Coupling piece 26 is pulled by a draw spring 28 20 which is attached on one side to a fixing pin 29 mounted on the rear side 8 of the housing and which is fixed on the other side to a fixing pin 30 connected to coupling piece 26. The draw spring serves to rotate coupling piece 26 until it is caught behind hook shape 37 of arm 32. Via 25 a gear rack 25 mounted on coupling piece 26 and a toothed wheel 24 mounted on said shaft 23, this rotation movement is converted into a rotation movement of shaft 23, whereby the foldable mirror 22 fixed to shaft 23 is urged into its folded-open position.

If the scanner is picked up so as to function as hand scanner and the unidirectional scanning mode is therefore preferred in most cases, pressure spring 36 urges the operating components 33 outward, since counterpressure from the table top or counter T is now no longer exerted on the outer end 35 of operating part 33. As a result of this movement (arrow A) coupling piece 26 is rotated in the direction of arrow C counter to the force of draw spring 28, which movement is transmitted

via gear rack 25 and toothed wheel 24 as a rotation movement of foldable mirror 22 in the direction of arrow B, whereby mirror 22 is carried into the folded-over position.

If the scanner is picked up so as to function as hand scanner and the omnidirectional scanning mode is however preferred, for instance for scanning a barcode without another barcode being present in the vicinity, an operator can press operating component 33 into the housing again with a finger, thus bringing about an omnidirectional scanning mode. A locking member or locking slide (not shown) is preferably provided on the housing with which operating component 33 can be temporarily locked in such a case.

In this construction the switch-over between the use of the scanner as fixed scanner and the use of the scanner as hand scanner is effected in simple mechanical manner, wherein the user or operator does not have to perform any additional operations other than 20 picking up the scanner or setting the scanner down on its bottom.

According to another aspect of the preferred embodiment of the invention, the polygon 14 is placed directly onto a rotating disc 16 of drive motor 15, 25 whereby a drive shaft can be dispensed with. Because a drive shaft is no longer required, polygon 14 can take a very simple form, wherein small components and the like, which were previously necessary for receiving the drive shaft, can possibly be avoided. Small components have the 30 drawback during the manufacturing process of the polygon that they prevent the discharge of heat, which can result in great deformations. These deformations are serious since in such a case the mirrors are no longer wholly flat, which adversely affects the scanning performance of 35 the scanner. Flatter mirrors can therefore be manufactured by embodying the polygon in simple manner and without small components. The absence of a drive shaft moreover means a weight reduction, whereby a

lighter motor can suffice which is moreover suitable for a higher rotation speed. This latter implies that a larger number of scan lines can be written per time unit.

The outer ends of polygon 14 are preferably provided with centring pins 17 which engage in or round the rotating disc 16 and thereby centre polygon 14 relative to this disc 16. This means that a separate balancing step, such as was required in the case of a shaft-driven polygon, can be omitted.

A double-sided adhesive tape or band (not shown) is preferably arranged on the top of rotating disc 16. By simply placing the ends of polygon 14 on the top side of this tape, a sufficiently sturdy connection between rotating disc 16 and polygon 14 is brought about.

15 Since the mirror surfaces of polygon 14 must remain clean in order to retain the reflective properties thereof, a protruding pick-up part 18 is arranged on the top of the polygon. Polygon 14 can be picked up easily herewith without this resulting in fingermarks on the 20 sensitive mirror surfaces of polygon 14.

In order to obviate the above stated drawback of the limited heat discharge in the case of small components in the polygon and the deformations of the mirror surfaces caused thereby, another embodiment of polygon 70 is shown in figure 7, wherein mirror surfaces 71 extend upward from a central platform 72. Polygon 70 is driven by a drive shaft 73 which engages on the central platform 72 on the outside thereof. Drive shaft 73 is driven by a motor 74.

The height of polygon 14,70 is embodied such that it is greater than the width of the polygon (i.e. a height-width ratio equal to or greater than 1). This not only reduces the air resistance of the rotating polygon 14, but also makes the adjustment of the laser light source in height direction less critical. Special measures for such an adjustment can therefore be dispensed with. Only adjustment in width direction remains necessary. Such an adjustment is brought about by

an adjusting shaft (not shown) arranged obliquely at an angle of about 45 degrees such that laser light source 10 is adjusted in width direction by operating a screw running in height direction and engaging on the adjusting 5 shaft.

Figure 8 shows a cross-section of the polygon 14 already shown in figures 3, 4 and 5. Also avoided in the shown embodiment of the polygon are small components which limit the heat discharge during the manufacturing 10 process of the polygon and thereby cause deformations of mirror surfaces. On the top of the polygon 14 a thickened portion 18 is provided to enable grasping of polygon 14 in simple manner without touching the mirror surfaces herein. Indicated with broken lines in the figure is that 15 in another embodiment the polygon 14 is driven directly via a long shaft 38. By also retaining in this embodiment the centring pins 17 for aligning polygon 14, less stringent structural requirements are made for the receiving of drive shaft 38 in polygon 14 compared with 20 an embodiment in which only a drive shaft is provided and centring pins 17 are omitted. As a result it is possible to suffice with fewer small components in polygon 14, which further improves heat discharge during the production of the polygon, and the polygon can still be 25 centred in simple manner.

The placing of polygon 14 and mirrors 19-21 is such that the narrowest possible scanner is provided, i.e. that the distance between side walls 3 of the housing of the scanner is as small as possible,

30 preferably between 3 and 14 cm, so that an operator can readily take hold of the scanner with one hand. For this purpose polygon 14 is placed as closely as possible to a corner of the housing, while mirrors 19-21 are placed as closely as possible to an opposite corner of the housing.

35 With this placing of the polygon and the mirrors the housing can be embodied very compactly, wherein the internal path length of the laser light is still maintained. A width of 60 mm by a depth of 50 mm and a

height of 85 mm can be realized for a scanner of the above described type.

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Although the advantages of the above stated placing of polygon 14 and fixed mirrors 19-21 will be 5 apparent to a person skilled in the relevant field, a further elucidation follows below. In known scanners the placing of the polygon and the fixed mirrors is embodied such that an axis of symmetry, which is defined as a line extending on one side through the centre of the polygon 10 and on the other through the centre of the fixed mirrors, extends in longitudinal direction of the housing of the scanner. More specifically this means that the polygon is placed centrally as seen in transverse direction and in the vicinity of an end surface of the housing as seen in 15 longitudinal direction, while the fixed mirrors are placed symmetrically relative to said axis of symmetry at a distance from the polygon. It may therefore occur that scan lines reflected from different fixed mirrors have essentially the same direction. When for instance two 20 fixed mirrors are placed on either side of the polygon, wherein both fixed mirrors are oriented in the longitudinal direction of the housing, there are in fact two vertical scan lines produced, which is not strictly necessary at a sufficiently high rotation speed of the 25 polygon. Because one or more fixed mirrors are redundant, they can be omitted without adversely affecting the omnidirectional scanning pattern and the scanning performance. The omission of one or more fixed mirrors simplifies the design of the scanner. The omission of one 30 or more redundant mirrors, for instance the omission of one of the two fixed mirrors oriented in the longitudinal direction, moreover reduces the space required in the housing for placing of the fixed mirrors. In such a case the axis of symmetry of the polygon in the fixed mirrors 35 no longer extend in longitudinal direction of the housing of the scanner. An omnidirectional scanning pattern can also be maintained in the case of such an "oblique" axis

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of symmetry, while a housing is provided with a width which is minimal.

The present invention is not limited to the above described preferred embodiments thereof; the rights 5 sought are defined by the following claims, within the scope of which many modifications can be envisaged.

CLAIMS

- 1. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising:
- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
- a pick-up element for picking up laser light
 scattered by a barcode;
- a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.
 - 2. Device as claimed in claim 1, comprising
 - position determining means arranged in the
- 20 housing for determining the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror;
 - control means which are connected to the position determining means and the laser light source and which switch the laser light source on or off depending
- 25 on the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror.
 - 3. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position determining means comprise:
 - sensor means which detect laser light
 reflected from the polygonal mirror;
- rotation speed determining means which determine the rotation speed of the rotatable polygonal mirror.
- Device as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, comprising a mirror arranged in the housing and foldable
 between two positions, in the first position of which a

first mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.

- 5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first mirror surface has a substantially flat surface and the second mirror surface has a substantially concave surface.
 - 6. Device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, comprising
- folding means arranged in the housing which are connected to the foldable mirror and which fold it between the two positions;
- operating means arranged partially inside and partially outside the housing which are connected to the
 folding means.
 - 7. Device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the operating means are arranged partially outside the bottom of the housing.
- 8. Device as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein 20 the folding means comprise an electric motor and the operating means comprise a switch for switching the electric motor on and/or off.
 - 9. Device as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the operating means comprise an operating member
- 25 protruding partially through a guide opening in the housing, wherein the operating member can be guided into the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the first position and wherein spring means arranged in the housing urge the operating member
- 30 partially out of the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the second position.
- 10. Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the operating member is provided with locking means for locking the operating member with the foldable mirror in 35 the first position.
 - 11. Device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror comprises a central part and mirror surfaces standing

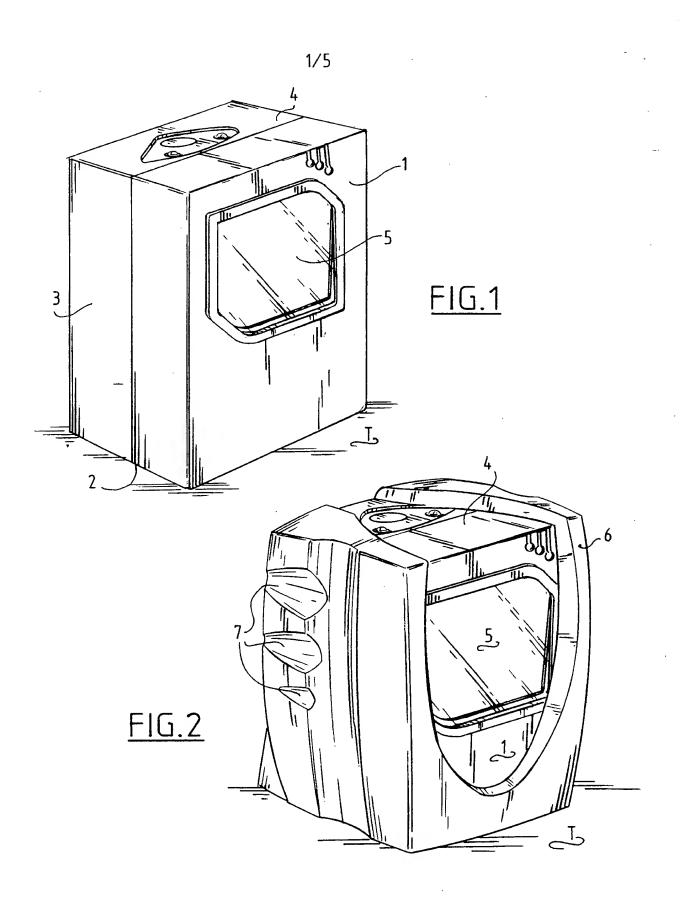
from a first side thereof and is provided on the other side with receiving means which receive a drive shaft for rotating driving of the rotatable polygonal mirror.

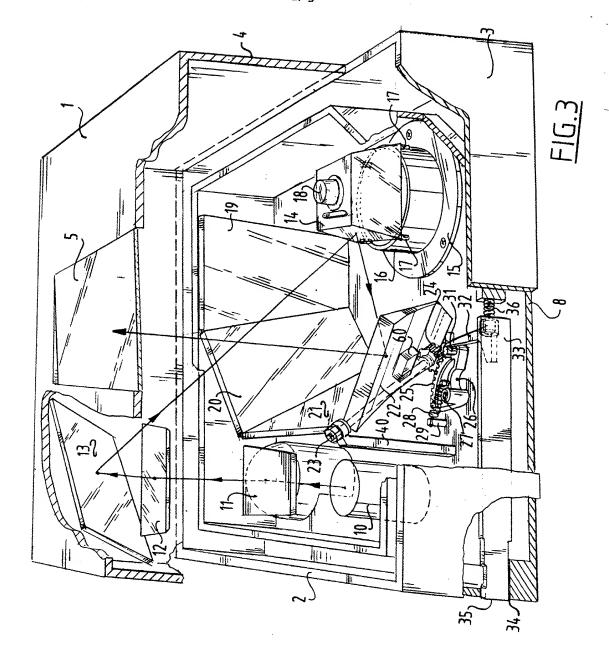
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- 12. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one
 5 or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are
 arranged:
 - a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting
 the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- a mirror foldable between two positions, in the first position of which a first mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.
- 13. Device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first mirror surface has a substantially flat surface and the second mirror surface has a substantially concave surface.
- 14. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one 25 or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are arranged:
 - a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting
 the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- drive means for driving a rotating support member, wherein the polygonal mirror is placed with the outer ends thereof on the rotating support member.

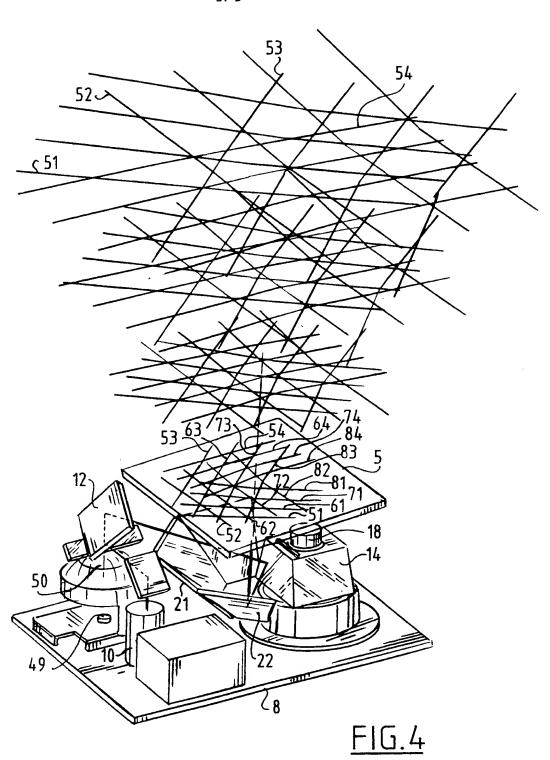
- 15. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are fixed at least partially to the rotating support member.
- 16. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein 5 double-sided tape provided with adhesive means is arranged between the ends of the polygonal mirror and the rotating support member.
- 17. Device as claimed in claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are provided

 10 with centring pins which engage round or in the rotating support member and which centre the polygonal mirror relative to the drive means.
- 18. Device as claimed in at least one of the claims 14-17, wherein a protruding gripping component is fixed to the polygonal mirror.
 - 19. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the height-width ratio of the polygonal mirror has a value of about 1 or higher.
- 20. Device as claimed in claim 19, wherein a 20 laser light source adjusting member is fixed to the laser light source, which positions the laser light source in only the horizontal direction.
 - 21. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror is
- 25 arranged in the vicinity of a first corner of the housing and the fixedly disposed flat mirrors and/or the foldable mirror are arranged in the vicinity of an opposite corner of the housing.
- 22. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing 30 claims, wherein a resilient holder is arranged around at least a part of the housing.
 - 23. Method for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, wherein the device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims is applied.



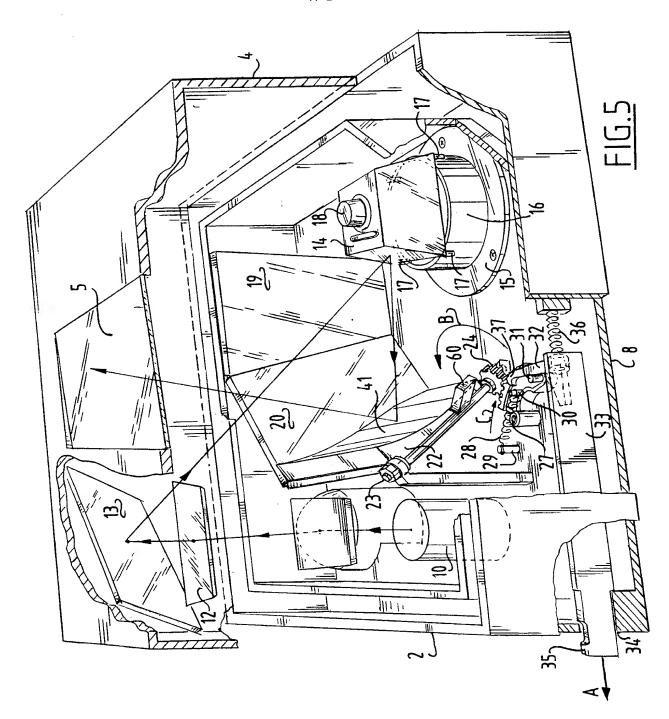


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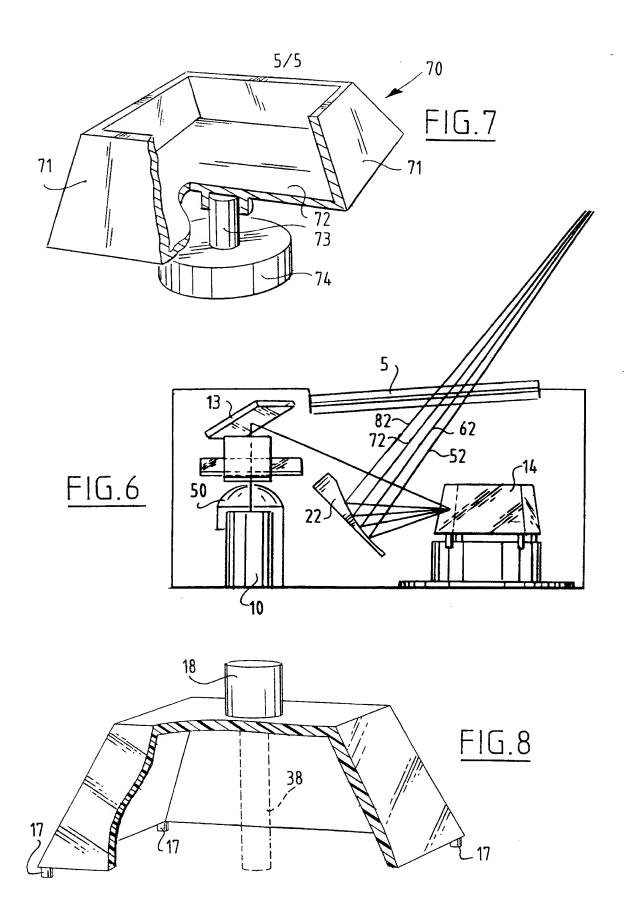


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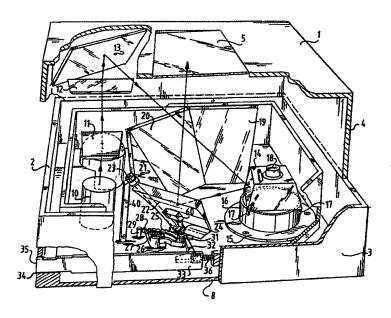
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3 August 2000 (03.08.00)

(54) Title: DEVICE FOR READING A BARCODE



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising: a laser light source (10) for transmitting laser light; a rotatable polygonal mirror (14) for reflecting the transmitted laser light; a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors (13, 19, 20, 21) for reflecting laser light; a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode; a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.

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	page 3, line 6 -page 5, line 9 page 8, line 27 -page 9, line 13	1						
	page 22, line 25 -page 25, line	26						
Α	figures 3,4,6,14		4-10					
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] ``	25 May 1993 (1993-05-25)		•					
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	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in	n annex.					
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PCT/NL 99/00565

Box I Observations wher c rtain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first she t)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
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Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-11, 19-23
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-11,19-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising a compact housing having a flat bottom side and a method therefor.

2. Claims: 12,13,19-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising a mirror foldable between two positions and a method therefor.

3. Claims: 14-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising drive means for driving a rotating support member and a method therefor.

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents United States Patent and Trademark Office Box PCT Washington, D.C.20231 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Applicant's or agent's file reference

14 September 1998 (14.09.98)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
29 May 2000 (29.05.00)

in its capacity as elected Office

International application No.
PCT/NL99/00565

International filing date (day/month/year)
10 September 1999 (10.09.99)

C PH/scan/12

Priority date (day/month/year)

Applicant

SCHONENBERG, Cornelis, Reinier, Johannes et al

1.	. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:
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	12 April 2000 (12.04.00)
	in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:
2.	The election X was
	was not
	made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).
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CLAIMS

- 1. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising:
- a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
- a pick-up element for picking up laser light
 scattered by a barcode;
- a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.
 - 2. Device as claimed in claim 1, comprising
 - position determining means arranged in the
- 20 housing for determining the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror;
- control means which are connected to the position determining means and the laser light source and which switch the laser light source on or off depending on the position of the rotatable polygonal mirror.
 - 3. Device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the position determining means comprise:
 - sensor means which detect laser light reflected from the polygonal mirror;
- rotation speed determining means which determine the rotation speed of the rotatable polygonal mirror.
- 4. Device as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, comprising a mirror arranged in the housing and foldable 35 between two positions, in the first position of which a

first mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.

- 5. Device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first mirror surface has a substantially flat surface and the second mirror surface has a substantially concave surface.
 - 6. Device as claimed in claim 4 or 5, comprising
- folding means arranged in the housing which are connected to the foldable mirror and which fold it between the two positions;
- operating means arranged partially inside and partially outside the housing which are connected to the 15 folding means.
 - 7. Device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the operating means are arranged partially outside the bottom of the housing.
- 8. Device as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein 20 the folding means comprise an electric motor and the operating means comprise a switch for switching the electric motor on and/or off.
 - 9. Device as claimed in claim 6 or 7, wherein the operating means comprise an operating member
- 25 protruding partially through a guide opening in the housing, wherein the operating member can be guided into the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the first position and wherein spring means arranged in the housing urge the operating member
- 30 partially out of the housing whereby the folding means carry the foldable mirror into the second position.
- 10. Device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the operating member is provided with locking means for locking the operating member with the foldable mirror in the first position.
 - 11. Device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror comprises a central part and mirror surfaces standing

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from a first side thereof and is provided on the other side with receiving means which receive a drive shaft for rotating driving of the rotatable polygonal mirror.

- 12. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one
 5 or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are
 arranged:
 - a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting
 the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- a mirror foldable between two positions, in the first position of which a first mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon and in the second position of which a second mirror surface reflects the laser light incident thereon.
- 13. Device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first mirror surface has a substantially flat surface and the second mirror surface has a substantially concave surface.
- 14. Device for scanning and/or recognizing one 25 or more barcodes, which comprises a housing in which are arranged:
 - a laser light source for transmitting laser light;
- a rotatable polygonal mirror for reflecting
 30 the transmitted laser light;
 - a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors for reflecting laser light;
 - a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;
- drive means for driving a rotating support member, wherein the polygonal mirror is placed with the outer ends thereof on the rotating support member.

- 15. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are fixed at least partially to the rotating support member.
- 16. Device as claimed in claim 14, wherein 5 double-sided tape provided with adhesive means is arranged between the ends of the polygonal mirror and the rotating support member.
- 17. Device as claimed in claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the ends of the polygonal mirror are provided 10 with centring pins which engage round or in the rotating support member and which centre the polygonal mirror relative to the drive means.
- 18. Device as claimed in at least one of the claims 14-17, wherein a protruding gripping component is fixed to the polygonal mirror.
 - 19. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the height-width ratio of the polygonal mirror has a value of about 1 or higher.
- 20. Device as claimed in claim 19, wherein a 20 laser light source adjusting member is fixed to the laser light source, which positions the laser light source in only the horizontal direction.
 - 21. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, wherein the rotatable polygonal mirror is
- 25 arranged in the vicinity of a first corner of the housing and the fixedly disposed flat mirrors and/or the foldable mirror are arranged in the vicinity of an opposite corner of the housing.
- 22. Device as claimed in any of the foregoing 30 claims, wherein a resilient holder is arranged around at least a part of the housing.
 - 23. Method for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, wherein the device as claimed in at least one of the foregoing claims is applied.

(PCT Articl 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

pplicant's or agent's file reference FOR FURTHER see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below. ACTION							
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)					
PCT/NL 99/00565	10/09/1999	14/09/1998					
Applicant							
SCANTECH B.V. et al.							
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Autl Insmitted to the International Bureau.	nority and is transmitted to the applicant					
This International Search Report consists	of a total of 5 sheets.						
	a copy of each prior art document cited in this	report.					
Basis of the report							
a. With regard to the language, the	international search was carried out on the ba ess otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the					
Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of t						
b. With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of the		nternational application, the international search					
:	onal application in written form.						
filed together with the inte	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.						
furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.							
furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readble form.							
	osequently furnished written sequence listing one is filed has been furnished.	does not go beyond the disclosure in the					
the statement that the info furnished	ormation recorded in computer readable form i	s identical to the written sequence listing has been					
2. Certain claims were fou	nd unsearchable (See Box I).						
3. \overline{X} Unity of invention is lac	king (see Box II).						
4. With regard to the title,							
X the text is approved as su	ibmitted by the applicant.	•					
the text has been establis	shed by this Authority to read as follows:						
	•						
5. With regard to the abstract,							
the text is approved as su							
the text has been establis within one month from the	shed, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Author e date of mailing of this international search re	ity as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, port, submit comments to this Authority.					
6. The figure of the drawings to be pub	lished with the abstract is Figure No.	3					
as suggested by the appl	icant.	None of the figures.					
X because the applicant fai							
because this figure better	r characterizes the invention.						

Form PCT/ISA/210 (first sheet) (July 1998)

PCT/NL 99/00565

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (C ntinuati n of item 5 of the first sheet)

Modified abstract:

The present invention relates to a device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising:

- a laser light source (10) for transmitting laser light;

 a rotatable polygonal mirror (14) for reflecting the transmitted laser light;

 a number of fixedly disposed flat mirrors (13,19,20,21) for reflecting laser light;

a pick-up element for picking up laser light scattered by a barcode;

- a compact housing in which the laser light source, the polygonal mirror, the flat mirrors and the pick-up element are arranged, which compact housing is constructed from a substantially flat bottom side, a top side and standing walls arranged therebetween and wherein the distance between the standing walls amounts to 3-14 cm.



B x I Obs rvati ns wh re c rtain claims were found un earchable (Continuati n f it m 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
B x II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-11, 19-23
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-11,19-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising a compact housing having a flat bottom side and a method therefor.

2. Claims: 12,13,19-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising a mirror foldable between two positions and a method therefor.

3. Claims: 14-23

Device for scanning and/or recognizing one or more barcodes, comprising drive means for driving a rotating support member and a method therefor.

International Application No
PULL 1 99/00565

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER I PC 7 G06K7/10						
	o International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classi	fication and IPC				
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IPC 7	cumentation searched (classification system followed by classific G06K	axion symbols;				
Documentat	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent the	at such documents are included in the fields sea	arched			
Flectronio d	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data	base and, where practical, search terms used)				
			·			
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the	relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
X	WO 97 28512 A (PSC INC) 7 August 1997 (1997-08-07) page 1, line 2 - line 10		1-3, 19-23			
A	page 3, line 6 -page 5, line 9 page 8, line 27 -page 9, line 13 page 22, line 25 -page 25, line 26 figures 3,4,6,14		4-10			
A	US 5 691 528 A (GOREN DAVID ET AL) 25 November 1997 (1997-11-25) column 1, line 65 -column 7, line 19		1-3			
A	US 5 214 270 A (RANDO JOSEPH F 25 May 1993 (1993-05-25) column 3, line 52 -column 5, l)	1			
Furl	ther documents ere listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed	in annex.			
"A" docum	ategories of cited documents : nent defining the general state of the art which is not idered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the into or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or th invention	the application but			
filing "L" docum which citatio	document but published on or after the international date ent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or h is cited to establish the publication date of another on or other special reason (as specified) nent referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	"X" document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered novel or canno involve an inventive step when the dc "Y" document of particular relevance; the cannot be considered to involve an indocument is combined with one or m	nt be considered to ocument is taken alone claimed invention wentive step when the ore other such docu-			
P docum	r means ment published prior to the international filing date but than the priority date claimed	ments, such combination being obvic in the art. *&* document member of the same patent				
	e actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international se	arch report			
	23 December 1999	2 2. 05. 2	2000			
Name and	I mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2	Authorized officer				
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	GOOSSENS A.M.J.				

on patent family members

Interpolation No
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REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Form PCT/RO/101 (first sheet) (July 1998; reprint January 1999)

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See Notes to the request form

International Filing Date

BUREAU VOOR DE INDUSTRIÈLE EIGENDOM **P.C.T. INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION**

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

RECORD COPY	Applicant's or agent's file reference (if desired) (12 characters maximum) C PH/scan/12					
Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION						
DEVICE FOR READING BARCODES	DEVICE FOR READING BARCODES					
Box No. II APPLICANT						
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) This person is also invent r.						
Scantech B.V.	Telephone No.					
Uraniumweg 23 3812 RJ AMERSFOORT THE NETHERLANDS	Facsimile No.					
	Teleprinter No.					
State (that is, country) of nationality: THE NETHERLANDS	State (that is, country) of residence: THE NETHERLANDS					
This person is applicant all designated for the purposes of: all designated XX the United St	d States except the United States the States indicated tates of America of America only the Supplemental B					
Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTH	HER) INVENTOR(S)					
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a lidesignation. The address must include postal code and name of cour address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence is indicated below.) SCHONENBERG, Cornelis Reinier Jo Prins Clauslaan 13 3818 ZC AMERSFOORT THE NETHERLANDS	of residence if no State applicant only					
State (that is, country) of nationality: THE NETHERLANDS	State (that is, country) of residence: THE NETHERLANDS					
This person is applicant all designated for the purposes of: all designated the United States all designated the United States	the United States the States indicated the Supplemental B					
Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated or	n a continuation sheet.					
Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE;						
The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act or of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities a	as: Common representative	;				
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a designation. The address must include postal code	legal entity, full official de and name of country.) Telephone No. 070-3654833 (direct: 030-254535)	2)				
LAND, Addick Adrianus Gosling Sweelinckplein 1 2517 GK DEN HAAG	Facsimile No. 070-3452140 (direct: 030-254537	2.)				
THE NETHERLANDS	Teleprinter No.					
Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no space above is used instead to indicate a special address to what is the special address to what it is the special address to white the special address to what it is the special address to wh	o agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the hich correspondence should be sent.					

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Continuation f Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER, INVENTOR(S)						
If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.						
Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.) This person is:						
NUNNINK, Laurentius Wilhelmus	applicant only					
Het Ruim 15	XX applicant and inventor					
3823 SG AMERSFOORT	inventor only (If this check-box					
THE NETHERLANDS	is marked, do not fill in below.)					
State (that is, country) of nationality: THE NETHERLANDS State (that is, country) THE NETHERLANDS						
This person is applicant all designated all designated States except	the United States the States indicated in					
	of America only the Supplemental Box					
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	the United States the States indicated in the Supplemental Box					
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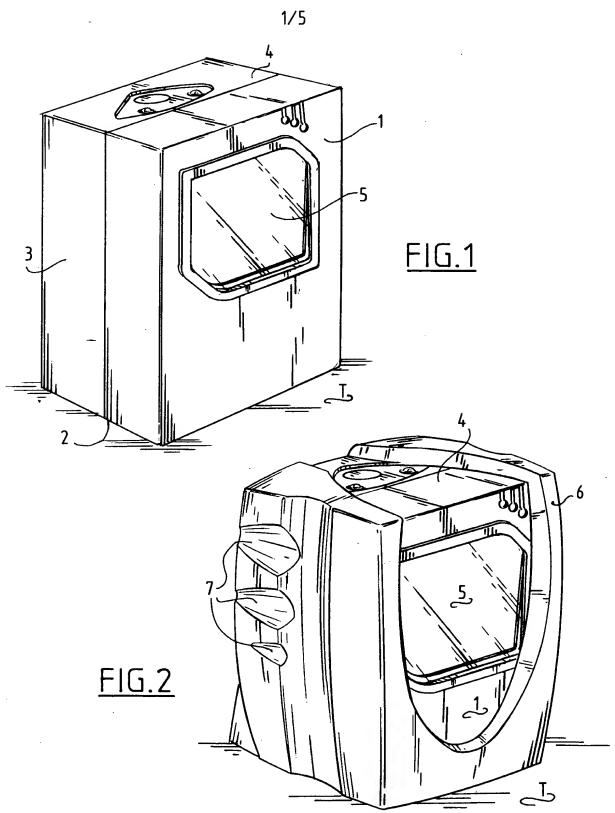
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×	EP	European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH and LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT								
Z	OA	OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment								
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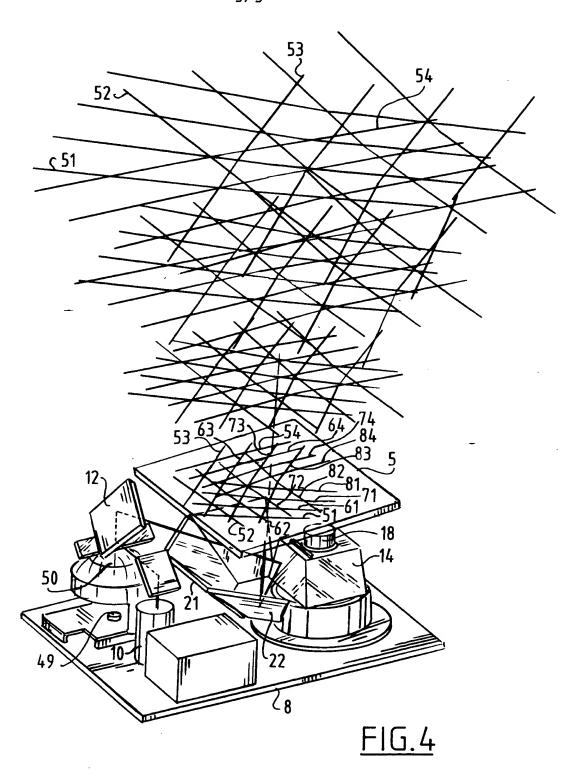
Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation of a designation consists of the filing of a notice specifying that designation and the payment of the designation and confirmation fees. Confirmation must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

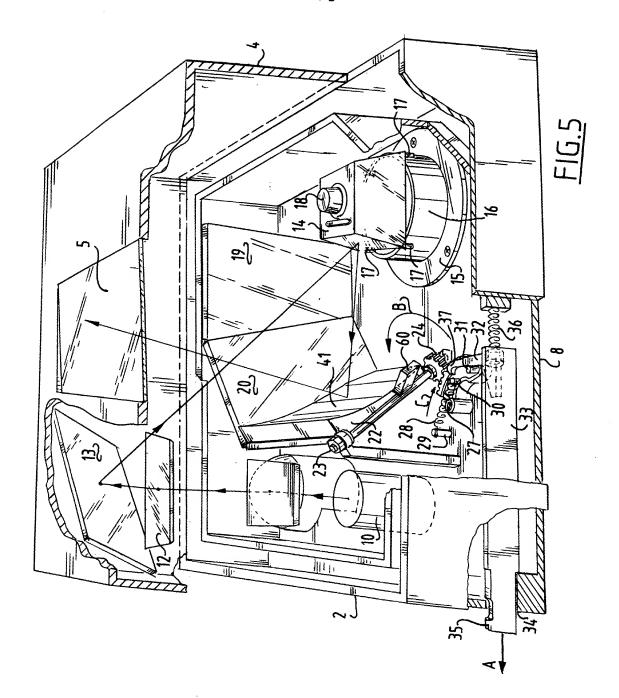
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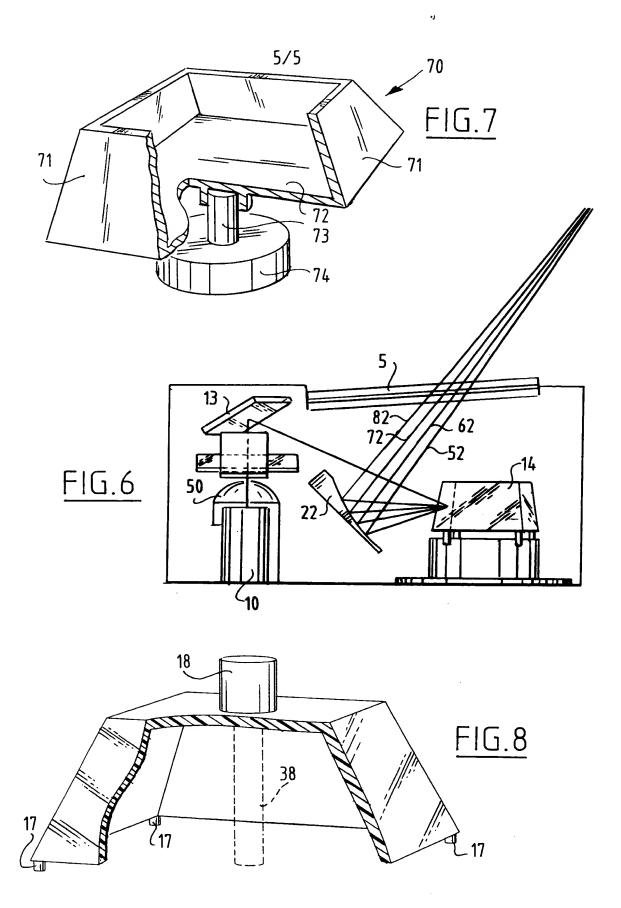
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the Authority chosen; the two-lette	r code may be used):	Date (day/month/ye		Number		Country (or regional Office
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INRICHTING VOOR HET LEZEN VAN STREEPJESCODES

1

De onderhavige uitvinding heeft betrekking op een inrichting en werkwijze voor het lezen van streepjescodes op voorwerpen, zoals bijvoorbeeld artikelen in een winkel. Dergelijke inrichtingen of 5 scanners zijn onder te verdelen in twee types. Het eerste type betreft een zogenaamde vaste scanner die op een vaste plaats is opgesteld, bijvoorbeeld in of op een toonbank van een winkel, waarbij de af te tasten voorwerpen door een individu handmatig voor de scanner langs 10 worden bewogen. Deze vaste scanners worden met name gebruikt voor kleine voorwerpen die gemakkelijk door een individu op te pakken en over de scanner te bewegen zijn. Een tweede type betreft een handscanner die met de hand van het individu of de bedienende persoon in de richting 15 van de streepjescode op het betreffende voorwerp gebracht wordt, waarna de streepjescode wordt gelezen. Deze handscanners worden met name gebruikt bij grote of zware voorwerpen waarvoor het omslachtig zo niet onmogelijk is om deze handmatig op te pakken en voor de scanner langs 20 te bewegen.

In veel gevallen, zoals bijvoorbeeld in het geval van doe-het-zelfwinkels waarin niet alleen kleine voorwerpen zoals spijkers en dergelijke, maar ook grote en zware voorwerpen zoals deuren en dergelijke afgetast moeten worden, zijn scanners van beide types benodigd.

Bekend zijn scanners die deze twee types in één apparaat verenigen. Deze scanners dienen echter, wanneer zij als vaste scanner fungeren, in aparte houders geplaatst te worden, hetgeen stuit op bezwaren van bruikbaarheid en bedieningsgemak. Bovendien hebben deze bekende scanners dermate grote afmetingen, dat ze niet zonder extra maatregelen eenvoudig met één hand aangrijpbaar zijn, hetgeen het gebruik als handscanner bemoeilijkt.

Een doel van de onderhavige uitvinding is de bovengenoemde bezwaren te ondervangen. De onderhavige uitvinding verschaft derhalve een inrichting voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, 5 omvattende:

- een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van laserlicht;
- een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het reflecteren van het uitgezonden laserlicht;
- een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels voor het reflecteren van laserlicht;
 - een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door een streepjescode verstrooid laserlicht;
- een compact huis waarin de laserlichtbron, de 15 meerhoekige spiegel, de vlakke spiegels en het opneemelement zijn aangebracht, welk compacte huis is opgebouwd uit een in hoofdzaak vlakke onderzijde, een bovenzijde en daartussen aangebrachte opstaande wanden en waarbij de afstand tussen de opstaande wanden 3-14 cm 20 bedraagt.

Door het huis van de inrichting te voorzien van een vlakke onderzijde wordt deze bij gebruik als vaste scanner eenvoudig door de bedienende persoon op een willekeurige plaats op een toonbank neergezet zonder dat 25 een houder of dergelijke benodigd is. Het huis heeft bovendien in de lengterichting dermate kleine afmetingen dat dit eenvoudig met één hand aangrijpbaar is ter vereenvoudiging van het gebruik van de scanner als handscanner.

Bij gebruik als vaste scanner werkt de inrichting op een zogenaamde omnidirectionele aftastwijze,
dat wil zeggen dat aftastlijnen onder verscheidene hoeken
worden geschreven, teneinde de kans op het herkennen van
een langs de scanner bewogen streepjescode onder alle
hoeken zo groot mogelijk te maken. Bij het gebruik als
handscanner echter werkt de inrichting vaak bij voorkeur
volgens een unidirectionele aftastwijze, dat wil zeggen
dat in hoofdzaak in één richting verlopende aftastlijnen

geschreven worden voor het in één richting aftasten van de streepjescode. Dit vergroot de selectiviteit bij het herkennen van streepjescodes aangezien in hoofdzaak slechts één parallel met de aftastrichting verlopende streepjescode herkend wordt, terwijl abusievelijke herkenning van overige streepjescodes wordt vermeden. Deze vergrote selectiviteit is met name van belang in het geval waarin op korte afstand van elkaar geplaatste streepjescodes herkend moeten worden. In sommige gevallen heeft echter bij gebruik als handscanner toch de omnidirectionele aftastwijze de voorkeur.

Voor een omnidirectionele aftastwijze moeten zoveel mogelijk aftastlijnen onder zoveel mogelijk hoeken geschreven worden, zodat alle vast opgestelde vlakke 15 spiegels gebruikt worden voor het reflecteren van het van de meerhoekige spiegel afkomstig laserlicht. Bij de unidirectionele aftastwijze dient laserlicht slechts gereflecteerd te worden door één van de vlakke spiegels, zodat aftastlijnen in hoofdzaak in één richting worden 20 geschreven. Wanneer de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel zodaniq qepositioneerd is dat daardoor gereflecteerd laserlicht op een ander vast opgestelde vlakke spiegel zou geraken, dient derhalve de laserlichtbron uitgeschakeld te zijn. Afhankelijk van de positie tijdens de 25 rotatie van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel zal derhalve de laserlichtbron uit- en ingeschakeld moeten zijn. Volgens een voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding omvat de inrichting derhalve:

- in het huis aangebrachte positiebepalingsmid delen voor het bepalen van de positie van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel;
- met de positiebepalingsmiddelen en de laserlichtbron verbonden besturingsmiddelen, die de laserlichtbron afhankelijk van de positie van de roteerbare
 meerhoekige spiegel in- of uitschakelen.

Bij voorkeur omvatten de positiebepalingsmiddelen: - sensormiddelen die van de meerhoekige spiegel gereflecteerd laserlicht detecteren;

 rotatiesnelheidsbepalingsmiddelen die de rotatiesnelheid van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel
 bepalen.

Door met behulp van sensoren van de meerhoekige spiegel gereflecteerd laserlicht te detecteren en tevens de rotatiesnelheid van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel van dat moment te bepalen, kan de positie van de meerhoe10 kige spiegel op eenvoudige en nauwkeurige wijze bepaald worden, hetgeen nodig is om de laserlichtbron in en uit te schakelen.

In een voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding omvat de inrichting tevens een in het huis aangebrachte en tussen 15 twee standen omklapbare spiegel, waarvan in de eerste stand een eerste spiegelvlak het daarop invallend laserlicht reflecteert en waarvan in de tweede stand een tweede spiegelvlak het daarop invallende laserlicht reflecteert. Bij voorkeur heeft het eerste spiegelvlak 20 een in hoofdzaak vlak oppervlak en het tweede spiegelvlak bij voorkeur een in hoofdzaak in een richting hol oppervlak. Dit heeft als voordeel, dat bij een omnidirectionele aftastwijze een daarvoor geschikt spiegelvlak, bij voorkeur een vlak oppervlak, het laserlicht reflecteert, 25 terwijl in de unidirectionele aftastwijze een ander voor deze aftastwijze geschikt oppervlak het laserlicht reflecteert, dat wil zeggen in dit geval een hol oppervlak. Door het holle oppervlak in de tweede stand van de omklapbare spiegel worden de van de verschillende vlakken 30 van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel afkomstige bundels laserlicht geconvergeerd tot een bundel met een maximaal vier keer zo grote gemiddelde intensiteit. Hierdoor ontstaat een scherpe aftastlijn van hoge intensiteit, hetgeen de werking van de inrichting als handscanner 35 verbetert. Een bijkomend voordeel is dat een dergelijke aftastlijn voor een individu, die de scanner bedient, beter met het oog is waar te nemen.

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Volgens een voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding omvat de inrichting eveneens:

- in het huis aangebrachte omklapmiddelen, die zijn verbonden met de omklapbare spiegel en die deze
 tussen de tweede standen omklappen;
- gedeeltelijk binnen en gedeeltelijk buiten het huis aangebrachte bedieningsmiddelen die zijn verbonden met de omklapmiddelen. De omklapmiddelen en bedieningsmiddelen zorgen in deze voorkeursvorm voor een eenvoudige omschakeling tussen de eerste en tweede stand van de omklapbare spiegel en derhalve tussen de omnidirectionele en unidirectionele aftastwijze van de scanner. Dit heeft bovendien als voordeel, dat een bedienend persoon op eenvoudige wijze, bijvoorbeeld door met zijn vinger op de buiten het huis uitstekende bedieningsmiddelen te drukken, de bedieningsmiddelen kan bedienen voor het omschakelen tussen de omnidirectionele en unidirectionele aftastwijze.

Bij voorkeur zijn de bedieningsmiddelen 20 aan de onderzijde van het huis gerangschikt om ervoor te zorgen dat bij het neerzetten van het huis met de onderzijde daarvan voor de omnidirectionele aftastwijze of bij het oppakken van het huis voor de unidirectionele aftastwijze gekozen wordt.

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In een verdere voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding omvatten de omklapmiddelen een elektromotor en de bedieningsmiddelen een schakelaar voor het in- en uitschakelen van de elektromotor.

Volgens een verdere voorkeursuitvoering

omvatten de bedieningsmiddelen een gedeeltelijk door een geleidingsopening in het huis stekend bedieningsorgaan, waarbij het bedieningsorgaan tot in het huis te geleiden is waardoor de omklapmiddelen de omklapbare spiegel in de eerste stand brengen en waarbij het bedieningsorgaan door in het huis aangebrachte veermiddelen gedeeltelijk uit het huis te geleiden is, waardoor de omklapmiddelen de omklapbare spiegel in de tweede stand brengen. Dit heeft als voordeel, dat bij het neerzetten en oppakken van het

6 huis de omklapbare spiegel, op gehele mechanische wijze en zonder dat de bedienende persoon zelf maatregelen behoeft te nemen, tussen de eerste en tweede stand, die respectievelijk overeenkomen met de omnidirectionele 5 aftastwijze en de unidirectionele aftastwijze, omgeklapt wordt. Volgens een verdere voorkeursuitvoering van de uitvinding is het bedieningsorgaan voorzien van vastzetmiddelen voor het, bij de omklapbare spiegel in de 10 eerste stand, vastzetten van het bedieningsorgaan. Dit heeft als voordeel dat wanneer het huis opgepakt is en de scanner derhalve dienst doet als handscanner, het bedieningsorgaan toch tijdelijk in een zodanige stand is vast te zetten, dat de scanner op de omnidirectionele 15 aftastwijze werkt. Een bedienend persoon behoeft in een dergelijk geval bijvoorbeeld niet voortdurend met zijn vinger op het bedieningsorgaan te drukken. Volgens een verdere uitvoeringsvorm van de uitvinding omvat de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel een 20 centraal deel en vanaf een eerste zijde daarvan opstaande spiegelvlakken en is deze aan de andere zijde van opvangmiddelen die een aandrijfas voor het roterend aandrijven van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel opvangen. Met deze uitvoeringsvorm is het bezwaar onder-25 vangen dat optreedt bij vervaardiging van de bekende meerhoekige spiegels, waarbij door de aanwezigheid van relatief veel smalle delen voor het opvangen van de aandrijfas bij het vervaardigingsproces te weinig afvoer van warmte optreedt en derhalve de spiegelvlakken van de 30 meerhoekige spiegel vervormd worden. Volgens een ander aspect van de uitvinding wordt een inrichting verschaft voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, welke een huis omvat waarin aangebracht zijn: - een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van 35 laserlicht; - een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het reflecteren van het uitgezonden laserlicht;

- een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels voor het reflecteren van laserlicht;
- een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door een streepjescode verstrooid laserlicht;

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- aandrijfmiddelen voor het aandrijven van een roterend steunorgaan, waarbij de meerhoekige spiegel met de uiteinden daarvan op het roterend steunorgaan is geplaatst.

Door de meerhoekige spiegel met zijn uiteinden 10 op een roterend steunorgaan te plaatsen kan een aandrijfas, zoals die bij de bekende aftastinrichtingen gebruikt wordt, achterwege blijven, hetgeen de constructie van de meerhoekige spiegel niet alleen vereenvoudigt, doch tevens een gewichtsvoordeel oplevert waardoor een lichte-15 re aandrijfmotor te gebruiken is. Bovendien zijn met een dergelijke meerhoekige spiegel hogere toerentallen mogelijk, hetgeen het aantal geschreven aftastlijnen per tijdseenheid en derhalve de kans van herkenning van een streepjescode verhoogt. Bovendien gebruikt een dergelijke 20 lichtere motor minder energie. Ook is het bezwaar ondervangen dat optreedt bij vervaardiging van de bekende meerhoekige spiegels, waarbij door de aanwezigheid van relatief veel smalle delen voor het opvangen van de aandrijfas bij het vervaardigingsproces te weinig afvoer van 25 warmte optreedt en derhalve de spiegelvlakken van de meerhoekige spiegel in enige mate vervormd worden. Door de vereenvoudigde opbouw van de meerhoekige spiegel kan bij de vervaardiging daarvan warmte beter worden afgevoerd, waardoor de spiegelvlakken een grotere vlakheid 30 vertonen ten opzichte van de spiegelvlakken van de bekende meerhoekige spiegels.

Volgens een verdere voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding zijn de uiteinden van de meerhoekige spiegel ten
minste gedeeltelijk bevestigd aan het roteerbare steunor35 gaan, waarbij bij voorkeur tussen de uiteinden van de
meerhoekige spiegel en het roterende steunorgaan dubbelzijdig van hechtmiddelen voorziene band is aangebracht.

Hierdoor kan op eenvoudige wijze de meerhoekige spiegel worden bevestigd aan het roterend steunorgaan.

Volgens een voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding zijn de uiteinden van de meerhoekige spiegel voorzien van 5 centreerpennen, die aangrijpen om of in het roterend steunorgaan en die de meerhoekige spiegel ten opzichte van aandrijfmiddelen centreren. Door de meerhoekige spiegel met de genoemde centreerpennen te centreren is bij assemblage van de scanner geen aparte balanceerstap 10 meer nodig.

Volgens een verdere voorkeursuitvoeringsvorm van de uitvinding is aan de meerhoekige spiegel een uitstekend aangrijponderdeel bevestigd, zodat de spiegel op eenvoudige wijze en zonder de spiegelvlakken daarvan 15 aan te raken, hetgeen de kwaliteit daarvan zou verminderen, op het steunorgaan kan worden aangebracht en van het steunorgaan kan worden verwijderd.

Volgens een verdere voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding heeft de hoogte-breedteverhouding van de meerhoe20 kige spiegel een waarde van circa 1 of hoger. Bekende
meerhoekige spiegels zijn breder dan dat ze hoog zijn.
Door de spiegelvlakken van de meerhoekige spiegel echter
hoger te maken dan dat ze breed zijn, kan de luchtweerstand van de meerhoekige spiegel tijdens rotatie vermin25 derd worden en is de instelling in de hoogterichting van
de laserlichtbron minder kritisch zodat de positionering
daarvan alleen in de breedterichting afgeregeld behoeft
te worden.

Volgens een verdere voorkeursvorm van de uit-30 vinding is aan de laserlichtbron een laserlichtbroninstelorgaan bevestigd, die de laserlichtbron in slechts de breedterichting positioneert.

Volgens een verder voorkeursvorm van de uitvinding is de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel in de nabijheid
van een eerste hoek van het huis en de vast opgestelde
vlakke spiegels en/of de omklapbare spiegel in de nabijheid van een tegenoverliggende hoek van het huis gerangschikt. Door een dergelijke asymmetrische opstelling van

de meerhoekige spiegel enerzijds en de vaste spiegels en/of de omklapbare spiegel anderzijds treedt er een zodanige ruimtebesparing binnen het huis van de inrichting op, dat deze nog smaller uit te voeren is.

Verder details, voordelen en kenmerken van de onderhavige uitvinding zullen worden verduidelijkt in de navolgende beschrijving en aan de hand van de bijgevoegde figuren, waarin tonen:

- figuur 1 een aanzicht van een voorkeursvorm 10 van de scanner volgens de onderhavige uitvinding;

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- figuur 2 een aanzicht van een voorkeursvorm van de scanner van figuur 1, welke is voorzien van een beschermingsomhulling;
- figuur 3 een gedeeltelijk opengewerkt aan zicht in perspectief van een voorkeursvorm van de scanner met opengeklapte spiegel;
 - figuur 4 op schematische wijze een scanner met het bijbehorende patroon van aftastlijnen;
- figuur 5 een gedeeltelijk opengewerkt aan zicht in perspectief van een voorkeursvorm van de scanner met omgeklapte spiegel;
 - figuur 6 een schematisch aanzicht van een voorkeursvorm van een scanner met dichtgeklapte spiegel; en
- figuur 7 een aanzicht in perspectief van een alternatieve uitvoeringsvorm van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel; en
 - figur 8 een dwarsdoorsnede van het polygoon van figuren 3, 4 en 5.
- De scanner van figuren 1 t/m 6 omvat een huis, dat is voorzien van een vlakke bodem 2, een opstaande voorwand 1, een opstaande achterwand 8, twee opstaande zijwanden 3 en een bovenwand 4. In de voorwand 1 is een venster 5 aangebracht waardoor laserlicht naar buiten en naar binnen treedt. De scanner is in figuur 1 met zijn vlakke bodem 2 neergezet op een toonbank of tafel T van een winkel en in deze positie fungeert de scanner als een zogenaamde vaste scanner, waarbij de streepjescodes van

de te herkennen artikelen door een bedienend persoon (niet weergegeven) langs het venster 5 worden bewogen. Hierbij treedt door het venster 5 een bundel laserlicht naar buiten. Het door een streepjescode op een artikel 5 verstrooid laserlicht treedt vervolgens via het venster 5 de scanner weer in en wordt daar via een collectorlens 50 door een ontvanger 49 opgevangen en vervolgens verwerkt waarbij decodering van de gelezen streepjescodes tot stand wordt gebracht.

In figuur 2 is de scanner volgens figuur 1 weergegeven, waarbij deze echter aan de buitenzijde van het huis 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 voorzien is van een beschermende omhulling 6, die bij voorkeur vervaardigd is van een veerkrachtig materiaal, zoals bijvoorbeeld een elastische 15 kunststof, rubber of dergelijke. Deze omhulling heeft naaste een beschermende functie tevens de functie het vereenvoudigen van het aangrijpen met een hand van een bedienend persoon. Daartoe zijn in de omhulling 6 een aantal inkepingen 7 voorzien, waarin de vingers van de 20 hand kunnen rusten.

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In figuur 3 is een opengewerkt aanzicht van de scanner weergegeven. Een laserlichtbron 10 zendt een bundel laserlicht of laserstraal uit (aangegeven met pijl) die vervolgens via een verstelbare spiegel 11 en 25 een spiegel 13 op een ronddraaiende meerhoekige spiegel of polygoon 14 valt. Het polygoon 14 is in deze uitvoering opgebouwd uit een viertal spiegelende vlakken die elk onder een verschillende hoek ten opzichte van de rotatieas gericht zijn. Polygonen met meer of minder 30 vlakken zijn echter evenzeer mogelijk. Laserlichtbundels die op de spiegelvlakken van het polygoon 14 invallen, worden derhalve afhankelijk van de hoek tussen het betreffende spiegelvlak en de verticaal op verschillende wijze gereflecteerd.

Het polygoon 14 is aangebracht op een roterende 35 schijf 16 die geroteerd wordt door een aandrijfmotor 15. Deze motor laat het polygoon 14 met een bepaald toerental roteren, waarbij het toerental in het bereik van 10 tot

10.000 omwentelingen per minuut, zoals bijvoorbeeld 3.000 omwentelingen per minuut, ligt. De van een willekeurig spiegelvlak van het polygoon 14 gereflecteerd laserlicht, is afhankelijk van de positionering van het polygoon 5 gericht op één van de spiegels 19-22. Spiegels 19, 20 en 21 zijn vlakke spiegels en zijn vast in het huis van de scanner aangebracht. In de stand van figuur 3 is spiegel 22 eveneens met een vlakke zijde naar het polygoon gericht en zal derhalve functioneren als soortgelijk aan 10 één van de spiegels 19, 20 of 21. Na reflectie tegen een spiegel (19-22) treedt de lichtbundel uit het transparante venster 5 van de scanner in de richting van een eventueel af te tasten artikel.

In figuur 4 is het aftastpatroon op het venster 15 5 en op drie (verschillende) afstanden vanaf het venster 5 getoond. Wanneer het polygoon 14 in de richting van de wijzers van de klok roteert, valt het laserlicht allereerst vanaf een eerste spiegelvlak van het polygoon in op de vlakke zijde van spiegel 22 waardoor een aftastlijn 51 20 geschreven wordt. Vervolgens valt de laserbundel in op spiegel 21 waardoor lijn 52 geschreven wordt. Hierna worden bij verdere rotatie van het polygoon via spiegels 20 en 19 de aftastlijnen 53 en 54 geschreven. Vervolgens wordt de van de laserstraalbron afkomstige laserlichtbun-25 del teruggekaatst door een volgend spiegelvlak van het polygoon 14, welk spiegelvlak in dit geval onder een grotere hoek ten opzichte van de verticaal is gericht. Hierdoor worden door spiegels 22, 21, 20 en 19 respectievelijk de aftastlijnen 61, 62, 63 en 64 geschreven, en 30 bij de volgende spiegelvlakken van het polygoon de aftastlijnen 71-74 en 81-84. In de weergegeven uitvoeringsvorm met vier spiegels 19-22 en vier spiegelvlakken van het polygoon 14 worden derhalve in totaal $4 \times 4 = 16$ aftastlijnen geschreven. Het patroon van aftastlijnen is 35 zodanig, dat de scanner in zoveel mogelijk richtingen een passerende streepjescode zal herkennen (omnidirectioneel aftastlijnpatroon).

Bij qebruik als handscanner is een dergelijke omnidirectionele aftastwijze echter niet wenselijk. De scanner wordt in dit geval door de bedienende persoon handmatiq naar de streepjescode op het af te tasten voor-5 werp gebracht en ten opzichte daarvan gealigneerd. Wanneer bijvoorbeeld de scanner zodanig gealigneerd wordt dat een te herkennen streepjescode in de breedterichting van de scanner voor het venster 5 gepositioneerd is, zijn voor het herkennen van de streepjescode slechts de af-10 tastlijnen 52, 62, 72 en 82 nodig. De overige aftastlijnen zijn in dit geval overbodig en kunnen zelfs tot foute decodering van de streepjescodes leiden, in het bijzonder in het geval dat streepjescodes zich op korte afstand van elkaar bevinden. Wanneer bijvoorbeeld streepjescodes zijn 15 aangebracht op de ruggen van een stapel boeken bevinden de streepjecodes zich op korte afstand van elkaar. Wanneer de scanner in de richting van de stapel boeken wordt verplaatst, is het door de ruimtelijke spreiding van de aftastlijnen in sommige gevallen voor de bediende persoon 20 niet mogelijk te achterhalen welk van de boeken gescand is.

Voor een unidirectionele aftastwijze dienen in dit voorbeeld slechts de aftastlijnen 52, 62, 72 en 82 geschreven te worden, die optreden als gevolg van terug-25 kaatsing tegen een spiegelvlak ter plaatse van spiegel 21. Wanneer het polygoon zodanig gericht is dat de laserstraal zou invallen van de overige spiegels 19, 20 of 22, dient geen aftastlijn geschreven te worden en dient derhalve de laserlichtbron uitgeschakeld te zijn. Daartoe 30 is een sensor 60 in een opening in spiegel 22 aangebracht, die het voorbijgaan van een laserstraal en het tijdstip waarop dit gebeurt detecteert. Hierdoor is niet alleen de rotatiesnelheid van het polygoon te bepalen, doch kan tevens in samenwerking met sensor 60 te allen 35 tijde de exacte positie van het polygoon 14 bepaald worden. Afhankelijk van de positie van het polygoon 14 schakelt besturingselektronica (niet weergegeven) de laserlichtbron 10 in of uit.

Ter verdere beperking van de ruimtelijke spreiding van de resterende aftastlijnen 52, 62, 72, en 82 is de spiegel 22 omklapbaar tussen twee standen uitgevoerd. In figuur 3 is de opengeklapte stand weergegeven, waarin 5 het spiegeloppervlak dat naar polygoon 14 gericht is in hoofdzaak vlak is. In figuur 5 is de omgeklapte toestand weergegeven waarbij de spiegel 22 rondom een as 23, die is bevestigd in een staander 40 en aan de onderzijde 8 van de scanner, geroteerd is. Als alternatief voor de 10 staander 40 kan op overeenkomstige wijze een spuitgegoten onderdeel aan de achterwand 8 voorzien zijn. In plaats van het vlakke eerste spiegeloppervlak van spiegel 21 is in deze toestand het holle tweede oppervlak 41 aan de rugzijde van de omklapbare spiegel 22 naar het polygoon 15 14 gericht.

In figuur 6 is weergegeven hoe de laserstralen verlopen wanneer deze invallen op het holle oppervlak van de spiegel 22. Hieruit blijkt, dat vier keer achter elkaar, overeenkomend met het aantal spiegelvlakken van de 20 polygoon 14, een laserstraal 52, 62, 72 en 82 wordt verzonden, waarbij laserstralen 52, 62, 72 en 82 zodanig gefocusseerd worden, dat ze op enige afstand boven het venster van de scanner 4 in hoofdzaak over elkaar heen vallende aftastlijnen vormen. In plaats van vier op enige 25 afstand ten opzichte van elkaar geschreven parallelle lijnen worden in dit geval vier over elkaar vallende parallelle lijnen geschreven, waardoor gemiddeld over de tijd genomen een lijn met een vier keer zo grote intensiteit wordt geschreven. Een lijn wordt derhalve vier keer 30 zo vaak geschreven, hetgeen de trefkans op het treffen en herkennen van een streepjescode, vergroot. Een bijkomend voordeel is dat een dergelijke aftastlijn voor een individu, die de scanner bedient, beter met het oog is waar te nemen.

Het omklappen van de spiegel 22 vindt plaats op de volgende wijze. In de in figuur 1 weergegeven stand van de scanner, dat wil zeggen over het algemeen de omnidirectionele stand, is de scanner met de bodem 2 van

het huis op de checkout T geplaatst. Hierdoor is het uiteinde 35 van een zich in een geleidingsopening 34 in de bodem 2 van het huis geleidbaar bedieningsonderdeel 33 tegen de druk van een aan het bedieningsonderdeel 33 en 5 een zijwand 3 van het huis bevestigde drukveer 36 zover ingedrukt, dat het uiteinde 35 zich op één lijn met de onderzijde van de bodem 2 bevindt. Aan het bedieningsonderdeel 33 is een arm 32 bevestigd, die aan zijn tegenoverliggende uiteinde een haakvorm 37 heeft. De 10 haakvorm 37 grijpt aan op een pen 31 van een koppelstuk 26, welk koppelstuk 26 rondom een aan de achterzijde 8 van het huis aangebrachte as 27 roteerbaar is. Het koppelstuk 26 wordt door een trekveer 28, die enerzijds is bevestigd aan een aan de achterzijde 8 van het huis 15 bevestigde bevestigingspen 29 en anderzijds aan een met het koppelstuk 26 verbonden bevestigingspen 30 is bevestigd. De trekveer dient het koppelstuk 26 te roteren totdat deze achter de haakvorm 37 van de arm 32 blijft steken. Via een aan het koppelstuk 26 bevestigde 20 tandheugel 25 en aan de genoemde as 23 bevestigd tandwiel 24 wordt deze rotatiebeweging omgezet in een rotatiebeweging van de as 23, waardoor de aan de as 3 bevestigde omklapbare spiegel 22 in zijn opengeklapte stand gedwongen wordt.

Indien de scanner wordt opgepakt teneinde als handscanner te fungeren en derhalve in de meeste gevallen de unidirectionele aftastwijze de voorkeur heeft, dwingt de drukveer 36 het bedieningsonderdeel 33 naar buiten toe, aangezien er nu geen tegendruk van het tafelblad of de toonbank T meer tegen het uiteinde 35 van het bedieningsonderdeel 33 meer rust. Als gevolg van deze beweging (pijl A) wordt het koppelstuk 26 tegen de kracht van de trekveer 28 in in de richting van de pijl C geroteerd, welke beweging via tandheugel 25 en tandwiel 24 wordt overgebracht in een rotatiebeweging in de richting van pijl B van de omklapbare spiegel 22, waardoor de spiegel 22 in de omgeklapte stand wordt gebracht.

Indien de scanner wordt opgepakt teneinde als handscanner te fungeren en echter de omnidirectionele aftastwijze de voorkeur heeft, bijvoorbeeld voor het aftasten van een streepjescode zonder dat een andere 5 streepjescode in de nabijheid aanwezig is, kan een bedienend persoon met zijn vinger het bedieningsonderdeel 33 weer het huis in drukken, zodat een omnidirectionele aftastwijze tot stand wordt gebracht. Bij voorkeur is aan het huis een vastzetorgaan of vastzetschuif (niet 10 weergegeven) voorzien waarmee in een dergelijk geval het bedieningsorgaan 33 tijdelijk vast te zetten is.

Bij deze constructie wordt op eenvoudige mechanische wijze de omschakeling tot stand gebracht tussen het gebruik van de scanner als vaste scanner en het gebruik van de scanner als handscanner, waarbij de gebruiker of de bedienende persoon geen extra handelingen behoeft te verrichten dan het oppakken van de scanner of het op zijn bodem neerzetten van de scanner.

Volgens een ander aspect van de voorkeursvorm 20 van de uitvinding is het polygoon 14 direct op een roterende schijf 16 van de aandrijfmotor 15 geplaatst, waardoor een aandrijfas kan komen te vervallen. Doordat geen aandrijfas meer benodigd is, kan het polygoon 14 zeer eenvoudig van vorm zijn, waarbij smalle delen en derge-25 lijke, die voorheen nodige waren voor het opvangen van de aandrijfas, mogelijk voorkomen kunnen worden. Smalle delen hebben bij het vervaardigingsproces van het polyqoon als bezwaar dat deze de afvoer van warmte verhinderen, hetgeen tot grote vervormingen kan leiden. Deze 30 vervormingen zijn ernstig aangezien de spiegels in een dergelijk geval niet geheel vlak meer zijn, hetgeen de prestaties van het aftasten van de scanner nadelig beïnvloedt. Door het polygoon eenvoudig en zonder smalle delen uit te voeren, kunnen derhalve vlakkere spiegels 35 vervaardigd worden. Bovendien betekent de afwezigheid van een aandrijfas dat een gewichtsbesparing optreedt, waardoor volstaan kan worden met een lichtere motor die bovendien geschikt is voor een hoger toerental. Dit

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laatste impliceert dat een groter aantal aftastlijnen per tijdseenheid geschreven kan worden.

16

Bij voorkeur zijn de uiteinden van de polygoon 14 voorzien van centreerpennen 17, die aangrijpen in of 5 om de roterende schijf 16 en daarmee het polygoon 14 ten opzichte van deze schijf 16 centreren. Dit betekent dat een aparte balanceerstap, zoals die benodigd was bij de door een as aangedreven polygoon, achterwege kan blijven.

Bij voorkeur is aan de bovenzijde van de rote-10 rende schijf 16 een dubbelzijdig hechtende tape of band (niet weergegeven) aangebracht. Door eenvoudig de uiteinden van het polygoon 14 op de bovenzijde van deze tape te plaatsen, wordt een voldoende stevige verbinding tussen de draaischijf 16 en het polygoon 14 tot stand gebracht.

Aangezien de spiegelvlakken van het polygoon 14 voor het behoud van de reflectie-eigenschappen daarvan schoon moeten blijven, is aan de bovenzijde van het polygoon een uitstekend oppakdeel 18 aangebracht. Hiermee is het polygoon 14 gemakkelijk op te pakken, zonder dat 20 vingerafdrukken op de gevoelige spiegelvlakken van het polygoon 14 ontstaan.

Teneinde het eerder genoemde bezwaar van de beperkte warmte-afvoer bij smalle delen in het polygoon en de daardoor veroorzaakte vervormingen van de 25 spiegeloppervlakken te vermijden, is in figuur 7 een andere uitvoeringsvorm van het polygoon 70 weergegeven, waarbij de spiegelvlakken 71 zich vanaf een centraal plateau 72 naar boven toe uitstrekken. Het polygoon 70 is aangedreven door een aandrijfas 73, die aan het centrale 30 plateau 72 en wel aan de buitenzijde daarvan aangrijpt. De aandrijfas 73 is aangedreven door een motor 74.

De hoogte van het polygoon 14,70 is zodanig uitgevoerd, dat deze groter is dan de breedte van het polygoon (dat wil zeggen een hoogte-breedteverhouding 35 gelijk aan of groter dan 1). Dit vermindert niet alleen de luchtweerstand van het roterende polygoon 14, doch maakt de instelling in de hoogterichting van de laserlichtbron minder kritisch. Speciale maatregelen voor een dergelijke instelling kunnen derhalve achterwege blijven. Slechts instelling in de breedterichting blijft vereist. Een dergelijke instelling wordt tot stand gebracht door een zodanig schuin onder een hoek van circa 5 45 graden gerangschikte instelas (niet weergegeven), dat de laserlichtbron 10 in breedterichting wordt ingesteld bij bediening van een op de instelas aangrijpende, in de hoogterichting verlopende schroef.

In figuur 8 is een dwarsdoorsnede gegeven van 10 het reeds in figuren 3, 4 en 5 getoonde polygoon 14. Ook in de weergegven uitvoeringsvorm van het polygoon worden smalle delen, die de warmte-afvoer bij het vervaardigingsproces van het polygoon beperken en daardoor vervormingen van spiegeloppervlakken 15 veroorzaken, vermeden. Aan de bovenzijde van het polygoon 14 is een verdikking 18 voorzien, om het polygoon 14 eenvoudig vast te kunnen pakken zonder daarbij de spiegelvlakken aan te raken. In de figuur is met een onderbroken lijnen aangegeven, dat in een andere 20 uitvoeringsvorm het polygoon 14 direct via een lange as 38 wordt aangedreven. Door ook in deze uitvoeringsvorm de centreerpennen 17 voor het uitlijnen van het polygoon 14 te handhaven, worden minder strenge constructie-eisen gesteld aan de opvang van de aandrijfas 38 in het 25 polygoon 14 ten opzichte van een uitvoering waarin enkel een aandrijfas is voorzien en de centreerpennen 17 zijn weggelaten. Als gevolg hiervan kan worden volstaan met minder smalle delen in het polygoon 14, hetgeen de warmte-afvoer bij de vervaardiging van het polygoon 30 verder verbetert, en blijft het polygoon op eenvoudige wijze centreerbaar.

De plaatsing van het polygoon 14 en de spiegels 19-21 is zodanig dat een zo smal mogelijke scanner verschaft wordt, dat wil zeggen dat de afstand tussen de 35 zijwanden 3 van het huis van de scanner zo klein mogelijk is, bij voorkeur tussen de 3 en 14 cm zodat een bedienend persoon de scanner eenvoudig met één hand kan beetpakken. Hiertoe is het polygoon 14 zoveel mogelijk in de nabijheid van een hoek van het huis geplaatst, terwijl de spiegels 19-21 zoveel mogelijk in de nabijheid van een tegenoverliggende hoek van het huis zijn geplaatst. Door deze plaatsing van het polygoon en de spiegels kan het huis zeer compact worden uitgevoerd, waarbij toch de interne weglengte van het laserlicht behouden blijft. Een breedte van 60 mm, bij een diepte van 50 mm en een hoogte van 85 mm is voor een scanner van het boven beschreven type realiseerbaar.

Alhoewel de voordelen van de bovengenoemde 10 plaatsing van het polygoon 14 en de vaste spiegels 19-21 voor een vakman in het relevante vakgebied duidelijk zijn, volgt hierna een verdere verduidelijking. Bij bekende scanners is de plaatsing van het polygoon en de 15 vaste spiegels zodanig uitgevoerd, dat een symmetrieaslijn, die gedefinieerd is als een zich door enerzijds het midden van het polygoon en anderzijds door het midden van de vaste spiegels uitstrekkende lijn, zich in langsrichting van het huis van de scanner uitstrekt. Meer 20 specifiek wordt hiermee bedoeld dat het polygoon in de dwarsrichting gezien centraal en in de langsrichting gezien in de nabijheid van een eindvlak van het huis is qeplaatst, terwijl de vaste spiegels op enige afstand vanaf het polygoon symmetrisch ten opzichte van de 25 genoemde symmetrie-aslijn geplaatst zijn. Hierdoor kan het voorkomen dat van verschillende vaste spiegels gereflecteerde in wezen scanlijnen dezelfde richting hebben. Wanneer bijvoorbeeld twee vaste spiegels ter weerszijden van het polygoon zijn geplaatst, waarbij 30 beide vaste spiegels in de langsrichting van het huis zijn georiënteerd, worden in feite twee verticale scanlijnen geproduceerd, hetgeen, bij voldoende grote omwentelingssnelheid van het polygoon, niet strikt noodzakelijk is. Doordat een of meer vaste spiegels 35 redundant zijn, kunnen deze worden weggelaten zonder het omnidirectionele scanpatroon en de scanprestaties aan te tasten. Het weglaten van een of meer vaste spiegels zorgt voor een vereenvoudiging van het ontwerp van de scanner.

Door het weglaten van één of meer redundante spiegels, bijvoorbeeld door het weglaten van één van de twee in de langsrichting georiënteerde vaste spiegels, wordt bovendien de in het huis voor plaatsing van de vaste spiegels benodigde ruimte verkleind. In een dergelijk geval strekt de symmetrie-as van het polygoon in de vaste spiegels zich niet meer in langsrichting van het huis van de scanner uit. Ook bij een dergelijke "scheve" symmetrie-as kan een omni-directioneel scanpatroon gehandhaafd blijven, terwijl een huis wordt verschaft waarvan de breedte minimaal is.

De onderhavige uitvinding is niet beperkt tot de bovenbeschreven voorkeursuitvoeringsvormen daarvan; de gevraagde rechten worden bepaald door de navolgende conclusies, binnen de strekking waarvan velerlei modificaties denkbaar zijn.

CONCLUSIES

- 1. Inrichting voor het aftasten en/of herkennen meer streepjescodes, omvattende:
- een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van .
- een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het en van het uitgezonden laserlicht;
- een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels
 reflecteren van laserlicht;
- een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door jescode verstrooid laserlicht;
- een compact huis waarin de laserlichtbron, de e spiegel, de vlakke spiegels en het opit zijn aangebracht, welk compacte huis is opgeeen in hoofdzaak vlakke onderzijde, een bovenlaartussen aangebrachte opstaande wanden en afstand tussen de opstaande wanden 3-14 cm
- 2. Inrichting volgens conclusie 1, omvattende:
- in het huis aangebrachte positiebepalingsmidhet bepalen van de positie van de roteerbare e spiegel;
- met de positiebepalingsmiddelen en de laserverbonden besturingsmiddelen, die de laserafhankelijk van de positie van de roteerbare e spiegel in- of uitschakelen.
- 3. Inrichting volgens conclusie 2, waarbij de alingsmiddelen omvatten:
- sensormiddelen die van de meerhoekige spiegel erd laserlicht detecteren;
- rotatiesnelheidsbepalingsmiddelen die de lheid van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel

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- 11. Inrichting volgens ten minste een der voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel een centraal deel en vanaf een eerste zijde daarvan opstaande spiegelvlakken omvat en aan de andere zijde voorzien is van opvangmiddelen die een aandrijfas voor het roterend aandrijven van de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel opvangen.
- 12. Inrichting voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, welke een huis omvat waarin aangebracht zijn:
 - een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van laserlicht:
- een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het reflecteren van het uitgezonden laserlicht;
 - een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels voor het reflecteren van laserlicht;
- een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door 20 een streepjescode verstrooid laserlicht;
- een tussen twee standen op omklapbare spiegel, waarvan in de eerste stand een eerste spiegelvlak het daarop invallend laserlicht reflecteert en waarvan in de tweede stand een tweede spiegelvlak het daarop inval-25 lend laserlicht reflecteert.
 - 13. Inrichting volgens conclusie 12, waarbij het eerste spiegelvlak een in hoofdzaak vlak oppervlak heeft en het tweede spiegelvlak een in hoofdzaak hol oppervlak heeft.
- 14. Inrichting voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, welke een huis omvat waarin aangebracht zijn:
 - een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van laserlicht;
- een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het reflecteren van het uitgezonden laserlicht;
 - een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels voor het reflecteren van laserlicht;

- een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door een streepjescode verstrooid laserlicht;
- aandrijfmiddelen voor het aandrijven van een roterend steunorgaan, waarbij de meerhoekige spiegel met
 de uiteinden daarvan op het roterend steunorgaan is geplaatst.
 - 15. Inrichting volgens conclusie 14, waarbij de uiteinden van de meerhoekige spiegel ten minste gedeeltelijk bevestigd zijn aan het roterend steunorgaan.
- 16. Inrichting volgens conclusie 14, waarbij tussen de uiteinden van de meerhoekige spiegel en het roterend steunorgaan dubbelzijdig van hechtmiddelen voorziene band is aangebracht.
- 17. Inrichting volgens conclusie 14, 15 of 16, waarbij de uiteinden van de meerhoekige spiegel voorzien van centreerpennen die aangrijpen om of in het roterend steunorgaan en die de meerhoekige spiegel ten opzichte van de aandrijfmiddelen centreren.
- 18. Inrichting volgens tenminste een der con-20 clusies 14-17, waarbij aan de meerhoekige spiegel een uitstekend aangrijponderdeel is bevestigd.
- 19. Inrichting volgens één der voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de hoogte-breedteverhouding van de meerhoekige spiegel een waarde van circa 1 of hoger 25 heeft.
 - 20. Inrichting volgens conclusie 19, waarbij aan de laserlichtbron een laserlichtbroninstelorgaan is bevestigd die de laserlichtbron in slechts de horizontale richting positioneert.
- 21. Inrichting volgens één der voorgaande conclusies, waarbij de roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel in de nabijheid van een eerste hoek van het huis en de vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels en/of de omklapbare spiegel in de nabijheid van een tegenoverliggende hoek van het huis gerangschikt zijn.
 - 22. Inrichting volgens één der voorgaande conclusies, waarbij rondom ten minste een gedeelte van het huis een veerkrachtige omhulling is aangebracht.

23. Werkwijze voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, waarbij de inrichting volgens ten minste één van de voorgaande conclusies wordt toegepast.

UITTREKSEL

De onderhavige uitvinding heeft betrekking op een inrichting voor het aftasten en/of herkennen van één of meer streepjescodes, omvattende:

- een laserlichtbron voor het uitzenden van 5 laserlicht;
 - een roteerbare meerhoekige spiegel voor het reflecteren van het uitgezonden laserlicht;
 - een aantal vast opgestelde vlakke spiegels voor het reflecteren van laserlicht;
- een opneemelement voor het opnemen van door een streepjescode verstrooid laserlicht;
- een compact huis waarin de laserlichtbron, de meerhoekige spiegel, de vlakke spiegels en het opneemelement zijn aangebracht, welk compacte huis is opgebouwd uit een in hoofdzaak vlakke onderzijde, een bovenzijde en daartussen aangebrachte opstaande wanden en waarbij de afstand tussen de opstaande wanden 3-14 cm bedraagt.